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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1990/RAJAB 17, 1410 AH

24 PAGES 150 FILLS

Oman visit ends

Amir back home

HIS Highness the Amir and his accompanying delegation yesterday returned home from the Sultanate of Oman, concluding a three-day visit.

HH the Amir was received at the airport by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, head of the National Guard Sheikh Salem Al Ali, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Khaled Al Ahmed, other sheikhs, ministers and a number of Kuwaiti notables.

Earlier in the day, the Kuwaiti-Omani official talks which were headed by the Amir and Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'ed of Oman were concluded in Muscat.

Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusef Bin Alawi said that the talks centred on means of boosting joint co-operation between the two countries within the framework of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

The two sides also discussed Gulf and Arab developments, Bin Alawi said, adding to reporters that the two Arab Gulf leaders share identical views.

Responding to a question by Kuwait News Agency if the two leaders discussed in detail the no-war, no-peace situation between Iraq and Iran, the Omani minister said: "The situation is as it is and within the United Nations. Big efforts were being exerted by all parties and we are not away from these efforts."

He hoped that these efforts will help boost efforts of the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to reach a comprehensive agreement between Iraq and Iran.

Civil trial for rebels demand

MANILA, Feb 12, (UPI): Defence lawyers demanded today a civilian trial for 21 military officers undergoing pre-trial investigation before a court martial in connection with the Dec 1-7 coup attempt.

Lawyer Homobono Adaza questioned the jurisdiction of the five-member special military panel conducting a preliminary investigation on rebellion and murder charges against Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando, and Jose Comendador.

Adaza said since some of the 119 people who died in the uprising were civilians the trial should be conducted by a civilian court.

Mandela predicts early talks

CAPE TOWN, Feb 12, (Agencies): Nelson Mandela headed for a tumultuous welcome home in Johannesburg's Soweto township today, predicting the African National Congress (ANC) and the government would soon begin talks over South Africa's future.

Tens of thousands of blacks waited to greet him in the volatile township where he lived until his arrest in 1962.

Aviation sources said Mandela, who was freed from the Victor Verster prison yesterday, left Cape Town aboard a chartered plane and would land near Johannesburg at about 6 pm (1600 GMT). They said he was

accompanied by his wife Winnie, his daughter Zindzi and three grandchildren.

His supporters kept his movements secret, fearing for his safety amid the tension, joy and violence stirred around the country by his release.

Local news media reported 28 deaths in the troubled province of Natal and there were many other violent incidents elsewhere. In the industrial belt of the eastern Cape many factories had to close when their workers took the day off to celebrate.

Before leaving Cape Town, Mandela said at his first news conference that he was optimistic the ANC and the South African

Kuwait welcomes release of Mandela

KUWAIT, Feb 12, (Kuna): Kuwait today welcomed the release of African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela after more than 27 years in South African jails.

Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today expressed, in statements to newsmen, happiness over the step, which, he hoped, will signal the start of dismantling the apartheid system in that state and an end of discrimination against the black population because of race or colour.

Sheikh Sabah highly extolled the struggle and steadfastness of the African nationalist leader while in prison for the sake of his people and country's cause.

government were not far from the negotiating table.

"I am confident that day is not far away," he said.

Mandela did not stray from the ANC's official policy lines during the hour-long news conference, and quoted extensively from the speech he gave to a tumultuous rally in Cape Town yesterday held just hours after his release.

Police reported extensive

(Continued on Page 9)



Mandela and his wife Winnie sing the national anthem during a welcome rally in Cape Town. (Reuters wirephoto)



A member of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) shouts anti-Pakistan slogans during a demonstration outside the High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Intelligence officer shot

India, Pakistan trade Kashmir accusations

SRINAGAR, Feb 12, (Agencies): India and Pakistan traded accusations today on a weekend shooting incident at their disputed border in Kashmir that left at least three people dead.

In India's Jammu-Kashmir state, which included India's portion of the Kashmir region, suspected Muslim secessionists killed an Indian intelligence agent today and blew up a state-owned bus, injuring 12 people, police and witnesses said.

A shopkeeper, identified as Gulam Hassan Gargoo, was killed when security forces opened fire on a crowd in Srinagar, centre of the secessionist

movement by Kashmiris against mostly Hindu India, and two people were injured in exchanges of gunfire between militants and paramilitary troops, witnesses said.

T.K. Razdan, an inspector with the Indian Intelligence Bureau, was shot in the crowded Gow Kadal area, site of frequent clashes between demonstrators and security forces during the current surge of anti-India violence.

Police said Razdan was walking to his office when he was killed with a pistol fired with a silencer.

(Continued on Page 2)

Soviets seek UN meeting on Jews

Sharon offers to quit in stormy Likud debate

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 12, (Agencies): The Soviet Union today called for a Security Council meeting on the settlement of Jews in the Israeli-occupied territories, a United Nations source said.

He said the request was made in a letter that Soviet UN representative Alexander Belonogov handed to council President Ricardo Alarcon of Cuba.

In another development Israeli hardline Trade Minister Ariel

Sharon, the chief opponent of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir within Shamir's Likud bloc, offered his resignation today at a critical meeting of the party's leadership which ended in a chaos.

The Soviet Union called for a council meeting "to consider the unlawful Israeli action with respect to the settlement in the occupied territories," the UN source said.

A senior Soviet official said today Moscow would not move to limit Jewish emigration, despite complaints in some Arab countries that it is supplying Israel with settlers for occupied Arab lands.

US accused of plotting with Geagea

Aoun aims at knockout

BEIRUT, Feb 12, (Agencies): Tanks of maverick Christian Gen. Michel Aoun rumbled through mountain ski resorts today, probing for a breach in the lines of rival Christian militias that could be used to sweep them toward the sea.

Aoun's troops and Lebanese Forces militiamen under Samir Geagea also fought with automatic weapons and hand grenades in the rain-soaked streets of East Beirut, police reported.

Police said the only civilian casualties reported were one man killed and a girl wounded by sniper fire last Monday. But Aoun's command reported the death of four officers and nine soldiers in the last two days of combat.

That raised the overall toll to 471 killed and 1,702 wounded in two weeks of fighting.

Security sources said at least 10 troops loyal to Aoun and 22 fighters of the rival Lebanese Forces militia were killed in two days of battle in the Keserwan area, 18 km (11 miles) northeast of Beirut.

More than 150 combatants were wounded in the fighting, they said.

Defying rain and fog, Aoun's troops advanced under a hail of artillery into LF-controlled rugged territory to seize the village of Kinaat on Saturday despite stiff resistance.

Fierce tank battles flared in the area yesterday, but there were no major changes in the positions of the foes.

In East Beirut, fighting with tanks, mortars and artillery erupted between Aoun's troops and the LF in the areas of Ain Al Roumaneh, Dora and Ashrafieh.

Aoun accused the United States of working together with his Christian rival to oust him by paying the way for Syrian intervention in East Beirut, an Nahar newspaper reported.

Aoun accused Geagea of secretly co-ordinating with foreign powers, namely the United States, to help implement the Taif agreement.

The An Nahar newspaper today quoted a spokesman of Aoun as claiming that a US diplomat identified as Faye Johnson and Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia recently agreed on a plan to destabilise the situation in East Beirut.

Aoun moved against Geagea's right-wing militia to eliminate the main challenge to his authority as ruler of the 310-square-mile enclave home to one million Christians.

But Geagea's 6,000-strong militia.

(Continued on Page 13)

The general is under growing pressure to deliver a knockout blow and seize Geagea's strongholds in East Beirut's Ashrafieh, Ein Rummaneh and Karantina districts.

But Aoun's troops were unable to break through the Lebanese Forces defences to the battle for control of the Christian enclave north and northeast of Beirut that erupted Jan 30.

Anti-Armenian riots

'Emergency'

MOSCOW, Feb 12, (Reuters): A state of emergency was imposed today in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan republic in Soviet Central Asia, after reports of anti-Armenian riots.

The official Soviet news agency Tass said the republic's leadership ordered the emergency and a curfew after "mass riots, including pogroms, arson and robberies" took place in Dushanbe.

Sources in Yerevan, capital of Soviet Armenia, said many Armenians had fled Dushanbe today after the riots, which began last evening.

The brief Tass report did not mention Armenians or name a reason for the rioting. It said the state of emergency was ordered by the president of the Supreme Soviet, or Parliament, in Tajikistan.

"In connection with the acute complication of the situation in Dushanbe, violations of public order and manifestations of extremism, accompanied by mass riots including pogroms, arson and robberies, the president of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan introduced a state of emergency and curfew from 10 am to 6 am starting February 12 on the territory of Dushanbe," Tass said.

It gave no other details other than to say that the republic's Interior Minister, M.N. Navzhurvanov, had been appointed military commander of the city.

A state of emergency was declared on January 19, in Baku, capital of Soviet Azerbaijan, and thousands of troops sent there after a week of anti-Armenian pogroms and Azerbaijani nationalist protests.

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Details inside page

Weather

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State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 1.31 am, 2.37 pm

Low water: 8.30 am, 8.41 pm

Sunrise: 6.30 am

Sunset: 5.35 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 18°C 64°F

Amman: 18°C 64°F

Fallaka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 6°C 43°F

Amman: 10°C 50°F

Fallaka: 9°C 48°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 19°C 66°F

Amman: 18°C 64°F

Fallaka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 34 per cent

Amman: 34 per cent

Fallaka: 34 per cent

Kuwait exceeds oil output quota

LONDON, Feb 12, (Reuters): Kuwait confirmed today that it has exceeded its OPEC-assigned oil output quota, snapping up extra sales and also stopping prices from rising too high in a period of stronger than predicted worldwide demand.

Western oil company executives say Saudi Arabia may have done the same. See Page 15

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Tigers kill seven Indians

LTTE in Tamil Nadu talks

COLOMBO, Feb 12, (Agencies): Seven Indian soldiers were killed in an attack by Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka's eastern Trincomalee district, an Indian spokesman said today.

The soldiers died when members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam group ambushed a military vehicle at Kanniya last evening, the spokesman of the Indian High Commission (embassy) said.

No further details were available.

More than 200 Indian soldiers are estimated to have been killed since the Indian peace keeping force arrived in Sri Lanka in July 1987 under a pact between Colombo and New Delhi to end a separatist revolt by minority Tamils.

India has said about 20,000 soldiers still remaining from an original force of 50,000 would be taken home by the end of March under a phased withdrawal now under way.

A four member Tamil Tiger rebel delegation is to visit the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu

today for talks with officials there to resolve the Tamil ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka.

A spokesman for the rebels said, the Tiger delegation, led by its theoretician Anton S. Balasingham, was invited by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanithi and will have several rounds of talks with him on the present crisis in northeastern Sri Lanka and how to resolve it.

The other members of the delegation are, Adele Balasingham, the Australian born wife of the rebel ideologue, Yogaratnam Yogi, secretary of the rebels' political party the People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT) and P. Lawrence.

The delegation will stay in Tamil Nadu for two to three days, the spokesman said.

The rebels late last year had talks with Karunanithi, who has been trying to end the factional clashes between the Tigers and the rival pro-Indian groups. The chief minister has also been trying to mediate between the rebels and the central government.

21 die in Punjab violence

AMRITSAR, Feb 12, (Reuters): Twenty-one people have been killed in renewed violence in India's Punjab state since Sunday, including three who died when a bomb exploded on a bus, police said.

The bomb exploded on the bus today as passengers were getting off during a rest stop in the town of Batala. Five people were injured.

A bomb also destroyed a bus today injuring 12 people.

India accuses Pakistan of training and aiding both Muslim Kashmiri militants and Sikh extremists who are fighting for independence in Punjab, which borders Pakistan and the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

At least 1,800 people were killed in Sikh-related violence in Punjab last year and about 250 have been killed this year.

Sikh extremists planted a powerful bomb in a police training school classroom yesterday, killing a police inspector, officials said.

In other incidents in Punjab, Sikh gunmen dragged out six family members from their home in Tara Taran yesterday and shot them dead, police said.



Talking

French actress Isabelle Huppert gives a press conference introducing her film 'La Vengeance d'une Femme' (Revenge of a Woman) on occasion of the Berlin Film Festival in West Berlin yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cyclone batters northern Bangladesh, 500 injured

DHAKA, Feb 12, (AP): A cyclone has battered two northern Bangladesh districts injuring more than 500 people and damaging some 10,000 huts, news reports said today.

The storm's 130-kilometres (80-mile) per-hour winds also destroyed vegetable crops in much of Panchagarh and neighbouring Nilphamari yesterday afternoon, the Bengali language newspaper Ittefaq said.

Panchagarh is about 350 kilometres (215 miles) north of Dhaka.

Telephone and telegraph lines in the districts were

snapped and electrical lines were brought down by falling trees and branches, Ittefaq said.

Most of the injuries resulted from collapsing houses, but some people also were hurt by hail that accompanied the storm, it said.

Rival Pakistani political groups swapped 76 more kidnapped activists in Karachi today, police sources said.

They said 70 hostages were released at a Soviet-built steel mill outside the Sind province capital and six elsewhere in the city.

Officer killed

(Continued from Page 1)

In other incidents today, snipers opened fire on paramilitary policemen at Gajwara, Zaina Kadal, Nowhatta and Rajwari Kadal — all trouble-prone neighbourhoods in Srinagar's old city district.

Indian officials said today that Pakistani troops fired on Indian security forces who had shot at Pakistani protesters from storming across the border yesterday near the town of Uri.

Indian forces returned fire and the exchange continued for about 30 minutes, a Defence Ministry spokesman said on condition of not being identified. No one was hurt, he said in New Delhi.

A Pakistani official in Islamabad denied the gunfire exchange took place.

Pakistani military authorities and the foreign secretary are in touch with Indian authorities to remove the misunderstanding, said Khalid Mahmood, a top official in the Foreign Ministry.

Indian border guards had opened fire yesterday on the hundreds of Pakistani civilians who tried to cross a ceasefire line separating Pakistan-controlled Kashmir from the Indian-held region.

A Pakistani Defence Ministry spokesman said at least three people were killed. Pakistan's state-run television put the death toll at six.

The Indian Defence Ministry spokesman said the protesters retreated when soldiers of the paramilitary border security force opened fire.

"The mob returned a second time by which time it had become slightly dark," he said. "That is when the Pakistani troops opened fire."

He said there were no Indian casualties.

The Pakistani spokesman said on condition of not being identified that Pakistani army patrols turned back a crowd of 1,200 demonstrators. Small groups broke away from the crowd and slipped into Indian-held territory, he said.

An official of the Indian border security force said the Indian army took over control of the ceasefire line after the incident. The border is normally patrolled by the border security force.

He said some of the protesters had guns.

"It was becoming very difficult. Our troops had to open fire," he said.

Pakistan's top diplomat in New Delhi, Bashir Babar, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday and today and told of India's concern over the events, an Indian government spokesman said.

Babar was told of "the seriousness with which we viewed the emerging pattern of incitement followed by rash and dangerous action on the border," Foreign Ministry spokesman Aftab Seth said.

Seth said Babar also was given documentary evidence of Pakistan's support for Muslim militants fighting for secession of Kashmir from India.

Reporters received photocopies of documents containing the names of six men described as Muslim militants arrested by Indian forces in recent months. The documents claimed the men were trained in Pakistan and also showed a map locating 46 alleged training camps.

The documents' authenticity could not be verified.

Voting held in Manipur state

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 12: Nearly 85 per cent of about 1,200,000 voters cast their votes today in the north-eastern Indian state of Manipur to elect a new legislative assembly.

After the general elections of last November, Manipur is the first state to go to the polls. Later, this month, eight more states and one union territory are also scheduled to go to the polls.

The Congress (I) party, led by former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, is in power in all these states and is making a determined bid to prove that it is still a force to reckon with.

Pakistanis vow

We'll struggle again, again

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, Feb 12, (Reuters): Injured Pakistanis, shot by Indian troops as they stormed across a military ceasefire line dividing Kashmir, said today they went ahead knowing they could be killed.

"We knew we would be shot," said Khwaja Farooque, 27, who was hit in the leg. He added: "We will struggle and struggle again and again."

At least three people died yesterday when several thousand demonstrators brushed aside Pakistani soldiers and marched on the ceasefire line at Chakothi to protest against Indian efforts to suppress a Muslim rebellion in Kashmir.

Several others are feared to have fallen from a narrow foot bridge across a stream which marks the line between Indian and Pakistani Kashmir.

A senior army office in Muzaffarabad, capital of Azad (free) Kashmir, said he had been to the ceasefire line hut was unable to see if there were any more dead or wounded.

Farooque and Musabbby-ur-Rehman, a 25-year-old student, were among the first of 12 activists to reach the Indian controlled section of Kashmir with the flag of the National Students Federation (NSF).

"I had a flag. I planted the flag and made a victory sign and then they opened fire," said Musabbby from his hospital bed in Muzaffarabad.

"I am happy to be injured. I know that when people die for their country my job is not finished."

He was shot three times in the left arm but managed to scramble back across the bridge under covering fire from Pakistani soldiers.

Indian and Pakistani soldiers fired continuously at each other for about 15 minutes and then intermittently for several hours, army sources said.

Muzaffarabad went on strike today to protest against the killings. Shops closed and thousands of people shouting "freedom, freedom" marched through the streets ahead of the funeral of those killed.

"People believe that freedom of a nation, our motherland, demands more bloodshed. We will continue to struggle until we achieve our national independence," said Gul Nawaz Butt, president of the NSF, which organised yesterday's demonstration.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting the Kashmiri revolt in which more than 85 people have died in the last three weeks.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto says the charges are baseless. But the wounded men in hospital said they had been involved in smuggling arms across the line.

"We have been doing it for the last few months," Farooque said. "It is not difficult."

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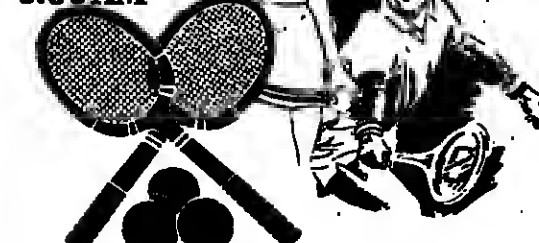
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British monarchs are human, love letters show

LONDON, Feb 12, (UPI): British monarchs are as subject to love's pleasures and pains, and to using pet names as commoners, their love letters show.

A collection of royal love letters spanning more than 450 years, including those of the much-married King Henry VIII, is on display at the Royal Britain Exhibition in honour of Valentine's Day.

Decorated with red ribbon and huge red lace bows, the letters offer excerpts and explanations of the passionate affairs between monarchs, mistresses and married royals.

The monarchs succumbed to schoolboy mushiness, used angst, suggestive talk, and old-fashioned romantic poetry to woo their hearts' desires.

Henry VIII, who with six wives became one of the best-known lovers in royal history, penned these passionate words to then-mistress Anne Boleyn in 1528: "Wishing myself (specially an evening) in my sweetheart's arms, who pretty ducky (nipples) I trust

shortly to kiss. Written with the hand of him that was, is and shall be yours by his will. H.R."

Boleyn, who had three breasts and an extra finger, became wife No 2 before Henry VIII ordered her put to death on a charge of treason. The king was apparently displeased that his wife did not bear him a son.

Famed mistress-monger King Charles II suffered the downside of his unrequited infatuation with the striking Lady Frances Stuart, who had served as his wife's maid of

honour. "O then tis, O then, that I think there's no hell like loving too well," Charles II wrote in a poem to Stuart.

His heart was later swept away by a French woman, Louise de Keroualle, whom he called "my darling fubs." Although he was never faithful to her, the king said on his deathbed, "I have always loved her and I die loving her."

Hansome young King George IV described himself as "rather too fond of wine and women." He became "old, fat and ridiculous"

later in life, however, taking on a succession of matronly mistresses.

He wrote to one, "I really do feel quite like a young colt going to be turned out to his first grass, as gay as a lark and as light as a feather."

His pursuits and his portly appearance delighted political cartoonists.

With little real work to occupy themselves, the exhibit suggests, it was not surprising some rulers spent their time indulging in flirtations, assignations and writing letters.

The letters, however, could be dangerous as they exposed royals to the threat of blackmail and scandal.

Some of the most touching love letters on display are between royal couples, especially devoted Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert.

"Dearest, best beloved Victoria, already another dear, dear, letter from you which has wholly charmed me, for it once again tells me you love me ...", Albert wrote to Victoria shortly before their marriage.

Ortega predicts rivals' defeat

ESTELI, Nicaragua, Feb 12, (AP): President Daniel Ortega accused his major rivals in upcoming elections of being allied with former national guardsmen released from prison last week.

Ortega's principal opponent for the presidency, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of the United National Opposition Coalition (UNO) also was out on the campaign trail Sunday, attracting 20,000 people to a campaign rally.

"Those who think that the GN-UNO is an option, I tell them that the GN-UNO is stuffed with people who were in the guard with Somoza on July 19, 1979. They will be defeated again," Ortega said in this town 90 miles (144 kms) north of Managua.

Ortega kept calling his rivals GN-UNO, implying an alliance between former president Anastasio Somoza's National Guard, or GN, and the 14-party UNO political opposition. A Sandinista-led popular uprising overthrew Somoza in 1979.

The president told 50,000 people that the voters would surround the opposition the same way Sandinista soldiers surrounded the national guard in 1979, driving Somoza from power.

Last week, the government pardoned the last 39 of Somoza's national guardsmen still in jail. It released more than 1,800 former guardsmen last year.

Making a play on the opposition's slogan to "change Nicaragua, Ortega said, "yes, they could kill people, destroy health centres and schools."

The Somoza government still is held in contempt by most Nicaraguans, and trying to link the political opposition to any vestige of Somoza's rule keeps alive the patriotic fervor associated with the former dictator's overthrow.

Mrs Chamorro, campaigning in Matagalpa, 85 miles (136 kms) north of the capital, has promised more conservative economic policies if she is elected.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo on Sunday labelled electoral apathy "one of the plagues of democracy." He called it a Christian responsibility to vote in the Feb 25 general elections.

Also Sunday, a man who claimed to be a former Contra rebel against the Nicaraguan government said that many Contras would not give up their fight unless the Sandinistas lose the elections.

"If UNO doesn't win, they won't give up the struggle," said Julio Cesar Gonzalez, 27. Gonzalez said he turned himself into Sandinista soldiers because he was tired of fighting.

El Salvador: Air force planes and helicopters attacked suspected leftist rebel positions during fighting around a village in the northeastern part of the country Sunday and at least six were killed and 20 wounded.

A woman church worker, who insisted on anonymity for fear of reprisals, said in a telephone interview fighting broke out around 6.30 am in the village of Corral de Piedra, 53 miles (85 kms) northeast of the capital, and air force helicopters and planes strafed and bombed suspected rebel guerrilla positions.

Sweeping plan to fight drugs

'Document of agreements' ready

WASHINGTON, Feb 12, (UPI): President Bush and the leaders of three Andean nations plan to sign "a document of agreements" at this week's drug summit that will commit them to an unprecedented war on drugs, administration sources say.

The document, jointly drafted over the past three months, would have the United States back a sweeping plan to replace the illegal South American drug trade with legal commerce, from fruits to textiles, the sources say.

In addition, the United States would bolster efforts to halt the smuggling of US made weapons to South American drug lords and limit the export of chemicals used to make cocaine.

In return, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, the world's biggest cocaine producers, would increase drug-fighting efforts and share more intelligence with the United States, the world's biggest cocaine consumer.

Mule train

MIAMI, Feb 12, (UPI): Customs agents in Miami have seen a six-fold increase in a single year in cocaine seized from people smuggling the drug into the United States by reselling it in balloons or condoms, authorities said yesterday.

In fiscal 1988, agents recovered about 23 pounds (10 kg) of cocaine from swallows. In 1989, they recovered 136 pounds (62 kg) of cocaine from 84 swallows, authorities said.

From the start of fiscal 1990 in October through early February, 88 pounds (40 kg) of cocaine has been detected in 53 swallows, customs agents in Miami said.

"At that rate, this year we could reach 300 pounds (136 kg)," said Vann Caprio, director of airport operations for the US Customs Service.

The average swallow ingests between a half-pound and 2 pounds of cocaine and is paid \$1,000 to \$3,000 for transporting it from Colombia to Miami.

The cocaine is compressed into small, rock-hard cylinders, then heat sealed and wrapped in layers of balloons, fingertips from rubber gloves, or condoms. If water permeates the pellets or if the covering tears, a massive cocaine overdose occurs, which could kill the carrier.

Last week, agents noted that Luis Triate looked very uncomfortable as he walked through customs at Miami International Airport. In his digestive system, inspectors found 2 pounds of cocaine wrapped in dozens of little rubber packets.

Triate, a physician, carried enough cocaine to kill him within minutes if one of the packets had burst.

"It's incredible that a doctor would do that," said Prospero Ellis, supervisor of a special anti-narcotics customs unit at the airport. "Each little packet is a time bomb in the stomach."

Agents said 99 per cent of the smugglers are from Colombia. When survivors of the Avianca Airlines crash on Long Island were examined last month, cocaine packets were found in the stomachs of four passengers.

At Miami International, travellers who behave suspiciously and fit a secret profile are detained for interrogation. Many are taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital's prison ward to be X-rayed.

If the X-rays show packages in the digestive tract, they are given the choice of taking bulk laxatives, undergoing an operation to remove the packets, or just waiting. Most agree to take the laxatives.



THE COCAINE HOUR GLASS

US report Cocaine yield limit doubles

NEW YORK, Feb 12, (Reuters): A US government report to be released after the drug summit in Colombia this week will say cocaine production is as high as 700 tonnes a year, 54 per cent higher than the highest previous estimate, US News and World Report said in its latest edition.

The high level of production would explain why the wholesale price of cocaine has remained pegged at the 1986 price—\$15,000 to \$20,000 per kilo (2.2 pounds)—despite widespread battles against the drug trade, the magazine said.

Together, all would crack down on the laundering of drug money and require stricter registration of planes and ships, used to smuggle narcotics. The United States also would try to cut demand by expanding anti-drug programmes.

"This will be the first comprehensive effort to attack the illegal drug trade in this hemisphere," said a US official who helped prepare for the summit that will be held under tight security Thursday in Cartagena, Colombia.

"It will mark a level of commitment by this country that is unprecedented, and a level of commitment by those countries that is unprecedented," the official said.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the official said "the document of agreements" was drafted over the past three months by representatives of the four nations.

He said the document was being translated into English and Spanish and, together with a joint communiqué, was expected to be ready for signature before the summit officially begins.

"The presidents will have an opportunity to discuss what they expect from the agreements," he said. "There is also a good chance they will talk about related issues."

One topic is likely to be coffee. Last year, Colombia's coffee earnings dropped by \$200 million. It is looking for a new trade agreement with the United States to strengthen its economy and, thus, ability to fight drugs.

Sources said the cost of the upholding the "document of agreements" to the United States, at least next year, would be covered by the proposed fiscal 1991 budget that Bush submitted to Congress last month.

In it, Bush recommended that US economic and military aid to the three nations increase by \$217 million to \$417 million. Military assistance is confined to training and equipment.

Bush has said he would seek \$2.4 billion in aid through 1994, provided there is demonstrable progress in the drug war. While the administration, since Colombia, it has sought a greater effort by Peru and Bolivia.

Under the new accord, the United States would encourage private US investment in South America and help open new markets for their goods.

The aim is to get hundreds of thousands of peasant farmers to stop raising coca for cocaine cartels and enter a new line of business.

All sides agree this will take time and be highly expensive. But they say it is a vital. The illegal drug trade in South America now totals about \$3 billion to \$4 billion a year.

New York youths back sex priest

'He's the nicest guy in the whole world', say beneficiaries

NEW YORK, Feb 12, (AP): To John O'Donnell, the allegations of sexual misconduct against the Rev. Bruce Ritter are beside the point. The point, he says, is that Ritter's Covenant House gives him a clean place to sleep each night.

"He feeds us, he clothes us and we're behind him 100 per cent," said O'Donnell, 20, who found shelter at Covenant House two weeks ago after he and his mother were evicted.

"He's the nicest guy in the world, and I ain't even met him. But someday I will and I'm going to shake his hand."

Last week, Ritter had stepped down as executive director of Covenant House pending an investigation by the Franciscans, the order of Roman Catholic priests to which

Ritter belongs, of charges that he had had sexual relations with several youths who had sought his help.

Ritter dismisses the allegations as "garbage," and O'Donnell and many of his fellow Covenant House residents agree. Even those who think Ritter's accusers could be telling the truth say it doesn't diminish their gratitude for a man whose work changed their lives.

"Excuse my language, but regardless if he's a homosexual or not, he's doing the right thing for us," said Mitchell Dedes, 20, as he stood outside the Covenant House shelter a few blocks from Times Square and a block from the port authority bus terminal. Both are magnets for homeless youths.

"We get three meals a day," he said. "My clothes have been washed clean. I was out on the streets about four weeks after I lost my job. Now I sleep in a room with a bed, where the sheets get changed."

Covenant House began in 1968, when Ritter, now 62, put a few runaways up in his apartment. It now serves 25,000 youths annually at 17 shelters in the United States, Canada and Latin America.

Nearly all of its \$85 million-a-year budget is funded by private donations. In his letters to potential donors, Ritter details the lives of youths who leave abusive homes for a street life of drugs and prostitution, but finally find peace at Covenant House.

"If schools spend resources fretting over the worth of Western culture, it's likely that children will be more woefully unknowledgeable in the basics than they already are," the Wall Street Journal editorialised recently.

The controversy has come east from Stanford University, where complaints that a required freshman course on Western culture fostered sexual and racial stereotypes led to the inclusion of more study of non-Western cultures.

The New York report, released last summer, said most attempts to talk about non-white cultural contributions were "appendages" to school curriculum.

In most history courses, white, European cultural is likened to the master of a house ruling over a slave table ... who has invited the others through his beneficence."

Trump card, divorce

Billionaire Donald Trump has moved out of the 50-room New York apartment he shared with his socialite wife Ivana, (right), and a divorce ending

their 12-year marriage seems imminent, the New York Post reported early Feb 12. (Reuter wirephoto)

NY kids taught whites superior

ALBANY, New York, Feb 12, (AP): New York state's powerful education policy-setting board meets this week to discuss a report which contends that much of what New York schoolchildren learn is based on "hidden assumptions of white supremacy."

The state board of regents on Friday will take up the task-force report titled "A curriculum of inclusion," which adds to a national debate over whether what's taught in schools is fair.

More than half the panel named by state education commissioner Thomas Sobol are educators, and its 17 members were black, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian and one white. It was headed by the state chairwoman of the civil rights group the NAACP, Hazel Dukes.

The report concludes that New York's history courses overemphasise the contributions of white Europeans, minimise the accomplishments of minorities and largely ignore wrongs committed by whites against others.

"We're saying that the curriculum should be revised to reflect accurately all contributions to that everybody knows where we as a nation came from," said meteorology professor Harry Hamilton, author of the report, who teaches at the state University of New York at Albany.

He said the report is intended to promote better understanding between cultures, but its critics say New York education leaders should be more concerned about disintegrating schools, high dropout rates and drug addiction.

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\$25m Trump settlement

Marriage over

NEW YORK, Feb 12, (UPI): High-profile developer Donald Trump confirmed that he is ending his 12-year marriage and said he is offering his wife, Ivana, a \$25 million divorce settlement, a published report said.

Trump told his Vienna-born wife, Ivana, that their 12-year marriage was over shortly before he left for Tokyo last Tuesday on a business trip, the New York Daily News reported today.

"It's better for Ivana and me to separate at this time," he told the News. "But I am leaving because I want to leave."

Trump, 43, denied rumours that his wife initiated divorce proceedings because of his womanising.

"As for those other women I have been linked with, well I want to say that we are all just friends, and that's as far as it goes," he said.

Mrs Trump, 40, a former model raised in Prague, Czechoslovakia, could not be reached for comment. The couple met at the 1976 summer Olympics in Montreal and married a year later.

Trump told the News that the couple's pre-nuptial agreement sets aside a lump-sum payment of \$25 million to his wife, plus their 5-room Connecticut mansion. He said the agreement gives him, not Ivana, custody of their two sons and one daughter.

The couple also owns a mansion in Palm Beach, Florida, and a luxury penthouse suite in the Trump tower on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

Trump was born to wealthy parents in the New York City borough of Queens and has amassed a personal fortune estimated by Forbes Magazine at \$1.7 billion.

An unnamed source told the News that Trump is not negotiating the terms of the settlement.

Another anonymous source told the newspaper that Ivana Trump was not considered a vital part of his multimillion-dollar business empire.

Ivana Trump has been running one of her husband's most famous acquisitions, the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan, but was not said to be otherwise involved in the Trump empire.

"Donald just let run the Plaza Hotel to keep her busy," the source said.

Second warning to Rushdie

Iran reaffirms edict

NICOSIA, Feb 12, (AP): Iran reaffirmed the death sentence against British author Salman Rushdie today for the second time in four days and warned "enemies of Islam" they face similar threats, Tehran radio reported.

Rushdie's late Ayatollah Khomeini decreed Feb 14 last year that the Indian-born Rushdie must die for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel, "The Satanic Verses."

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said today's statement was issued to coincide with Wednesday's anniversary of Khomeini's "Fatwa", or religious ruling.

The Iranians insist that even though Khomeini died June 3, his edict is still binding and irrevocable.

Khomeini's successor, former president Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who is considered more moderate, declared Friday that the death sentence on Rushdie was still in force and should be carried out.

Tehran's tough line coincides with the 11th anniversary of Khomeini's Islamic revolution. The statements stressing that Rushdie is still a target were seen as an apparent effort by President Hashemi Rafsanjani and other so-called pragmatists seeking better relations with the West to mollify radicals who claim they are deviating from Khomeini's ideology.

US officials warned last week that pro-Iranian extremists may be planning terrorist attacks to mark the revolution's anniversary. But so far none has been reported.

The radio quoted the statement as saying: "This decree from the great Islam warns the enemies of Islam and humanity that the holy name of the Islamic republic and its glorious revolution will confront their various plots in this manner."

Rushdie, who has been in hiding for the last

year, said last week he considered appearing in public to deliver a lecture on censorship, but was dissuaded by his bodyguards.

In an interview with London's Independent daily and Newweek magazine last week, Rushdie expressed regret at the pain his book had caused to some Muslims.

But he said he stood by what he had written and was now pressing for a paperback edition of the book.

Tehran's statement followed an appeal Sunday by more than 160 prominent writers to world leaders to help get the death threats against Rushdie lifted.

The writers, including Czech President Vaclav Havel, signed the petition prepared by the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rushdie and his Publishers. It was published by more than 20 newspapers worldwide.

Today's Tehran statement said: "By issuing the death decree on the apostate Salman Rushdie, Imam Khomeini showed that great Islam, and the primary personality and leader of the Islamic world will never retreat an inch in plots hatched by the enemies of Islam, humanity and global arrogance."

"Global arrogance" is an Iranian term for the United States and its allies. Muslim fundamentalists, who consider "The Satanic Verses" blasphemous for its irreverent treatment of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), reacted violently when the book was published in 1988.

Several Iranian leaders put a \$5.2 million bounty on Rushdie's head.

Britain, along with the 11 other European Economic Community countries, recalled their ambassadors from Tehran to protest Khomeini's ruling.

JAWHARS

Manila hopes communists will come to terms

MANILA, Feb 12, (Reuters): The Philippines is hoping the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe will help end one of Asia's longest-running communist insurgencies.

"We are hoping the insurgent leaders will realise that the cause which they are supposed to be fighting for... is being rejected all over the world," Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told reporters today.

He said he wanted the outlawed communists, who are waging a 20-year-old insurgency, to become part of democratic life.

Asked if this meant legalising the Communist Party, he said: "Yes I am in favour of the legalisation of the party provided that they are ready to participate peacefully in the democratic process."

President Corason Aquino says the communists must renounce violence before they can be legalised.

The government started talks with the communists in 1986 but negotiations collapsed after six weeks.

Drawing strength from resentment at the widespread poverty and inequality in the Philippines, the

communist National People's Army (NPA) has switched tactics over the past two years to focus on urban attacks instead of guerrilla battles in the countryside.

It has also threatened to step up attacks against American targets as part of a campaign for the removal of US military bases from the Philippines.

Armed forces chief General Renato de Villa said at the weekend that communist strength was weakening. According to military intelligence reports, the Communist Party is due to call a national congress

within the next few months to reassess strategy because of events in Eastern Europe.

"There is really a need for them to reassess and re-study their plans, programmes and policies to revive their much discredited movement," De Villa told reporters.

He said the military believed the strength of the NPA was down to 19,000 from a high of 25,000 in mid-1988.

Government forces have killed at least 139 guerrillas on the southern island of Mindanao this month, he said.

Cheney takes it easy

Plans to go ahead with Manila visit despite Cory snub

HONOLULU, Feb 12, (Reuters): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will go ahead with a planned visit to the Philippines next week despite President Corason Aquino's refusal to meet with him.

"We value our relationship with the government of the Philippines and expect to have productive meetings there," Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said yesterday in response to the apparent snub.

Aquino said in her weekly radio broadcast that she would not meet Cheney during the visit.

"He (Cheney) doesn't take it personally," said Williams, adding that Cheney would hold bilateral military talks as scheduled with Defence Minister Fidel Ramos during the Feb 19-20 visit.

"We obviously assumed he would meet with her personally. But obviously she doesn't want to meet with him."

US-Philippine relations have grown increasingly strained in recent months as the time draws near for negotiations between the two countries on the future of US bases there, including Clark air base and Subic Bay naval base.



Commandador (left) and Blando attend a pre-trial meeting Feb 12. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Satellite beacon must go'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Feb 12, (AP): Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer said today he has asked France to remove a communications satellite beacon from the remote Chatham Islands because it might have military applications.

Palmer acknowledged that the system could have some civilian applications, such as monitoring tide levels.

But, he said, "It is also clear that this could be used to assist with the trajectory of ballistic missiles — and some of those missiles could be armed with nuclear warheads. France is a nuclear weapons state."

New Zealand is a vigorous opponent of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, and relations between the two countries deteriorated after the 1985 bombing of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour.

That bombing was allegedly carried out by French secret service agents in an attempt to prevent Greenpeace, an international environmental organisation, from interrupting French nuclear tests.

The satellite equipment, named Project Doris and set up late last year, was never operational.

The Chatham Islands, which belong to New Zealand, are about 500 miles (800 kilometres) east of Christchurch.

Palmer said New Zealand had already informed the French government of its decision.

Despite the civilian uses which are very useful, the cabinet could not rule out that there were not military applications available here. We've decided that the beacon should be removed," he said.

Misuari warns Cory

'Heed demands or face split'

JEDDAH, Feb 12, (AP): Rebel Filipino Muslim leader Nur Misuari said today that President Corason Aquino's government has to heed demands for Muslim autonomy or risk the Philippines splitting into three republics.

Misuari, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, warned that his forces will escalate their nearly 20-year-old guerrilla for self-rule in the southern Mindanao Islands.

"If the government does not have enough wisdom to respond to the demands of the people, the situation in the Philippines as a whole will worsen and the emergence of the three republics of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will be inevitable," he told the Associated Press.

Mindanao has a large Muslim population. Many parts of Luzon are controlled by communist rebels. The Visayas region is dominated by Christians.



Aquino threatened

"If the government has enough wisdom, it will learn from the lesson of Eastern Europe or else it should be ready for a division of the country," Misuari said.

"There's fighting now in all places. Although this of a small magnitude, it has the potential to escalate," he said.

Misuari spoke before a meeting with Hamid Al Gahid, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The 46-membered OIC, headquartered in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, has been seeking to mediate a settlement between Manila and the Muslim rebels since the mid-1970s.

But the effort has deadlocked because President Aquino's government is prepared to accord only limited self-rule for Mindanao.

Misuari denied that the liberation front had relinquished its demand for complete self-rule for Mindanao, but said it had accepted the principle of autonomy stipulated in a 1976 Tripoli agreement because of its commitment to the OIC's mediation.

"We cannot unilaterally renounce our commitment to the OIC or the Tripoli agreement," he said.

Misuari said that the Liberation Front, which has observer status with the OIC, will press for full membership at the annual Conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Cairo next May.

"The OIC, a forum for all Muslims, should shoulder its responsibilities toward us," he said.

"Full membership is the last card in our hands and is the only way out for us, as it will unify our people and end the policy of divide and rule being practised by the Manila government," he said.

No regional organisation, such as the OIC, the Organisation of African Unity or the Arab League, have so far responded to requests for membership by secessionist movements.

58 die in Burmese weekend fighting

RANGOON, Feb 12, (AP): At least 58 people were killed in heavy weekend fighting as Burmese government forces overran a rebel headquarters, and thousands of refugees poured into neighbouring Thailand, Thai and rebel sources said today.

A bomb blast Saturday night killed 33 Karen guerrillas at their stronghold of Kaw Moo Ra, just inside Burma, a spokesman for the ethnic rebel group said.

The bomb exploded at Kaw Moo Ra as guerrillas were carrying captured weapons and munitions back to the camp, the spokesman said, adding that he suspected the munitions had been booby-trapped by government troops.

Thai border police said that yesterday, they found the bodies of 19 Burmese and six Karen fighters at the Thai village of Ban Waeng Kaew, directly opposite Kaw Moo Ra, some 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of Bangkok.

On Friday, about 200 Burmese troops crossed into Thailand to attack the base, one of the last held by the Karens on the frontier.

Also yesterday, some 1,000 Burmese troops overran the headquarters of the New Mon state army near the village of Three Pagoda Pass, which they had seized and burned two days earlier, a Thai official said.

Kavee Minawong, district chief of the town of Saungkha in Kanchanaburi province — just across the border in Thailand — said government troops began their attack at about midnight Saturday and captured the base early the next day.

Both sides appeared to have suffered heavy casualties, but neither was willing to disclose the extent of its losses, he said.

Some 4,000 Mon civilians fled into Kanchanaburi province to escape the fighting and marauding Burmese troops, Kavee said.

About 200 Thai civilians were evacuated to safety from the fighting, he added.

He said the Mon refugees would be sent back across the border once the fighting died down.

The Karens and the Mon are among the diverse ethnic groups that have fought for decades against central control by Rangoon.

Both have relied on controlling smuggling routes between Thailand and Burma to finance their rebellions, while the Burmese government has stepped up its efforts to control the jungled border area.

A sustained government offensive that began in October 1988 has crippled the Karens, who have lost a string of key bases. Only their headquarters at Mawlaikpa has yet to be attacked.

Hundreds of ethnic Thais of Mon nationality jammed Saungkha last week to take part in a planned celebration of the Mon National Day on Saturday, but were forced to return home because of the fighting, Kavee said.

More than 100 Burmese dissident students are missing and believed trapped by the Burmese army after the fall of an ethnic insurgent base near the Thai border, a dissident student leader said Saturday.

Five Filipinos die in ambush

MANILA, Feb 12, (UPI): Men armed with automatic weapons opened fire at a car in the capital today, killing four undercover police agents and a girl and wounding two women, police said.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack.

The undercover agents of the criminal investigation service were riding in a car on a highway in suburban Marikina town when a van blocked their path. Four men got out of the van and opened fire with M-16 automatic rifles, he said.

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Search on for Java volcano eruption victims

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Feb 12, (AP): Searchers set out today to look for five people who have been missing since Mount Kelud erupted Saturday, killing 17 people and destroying hundreds of homes in east Java, an official said.

Three of the missing were believed to have been washed away in the Brantas River after the eruption about 900 kilometres (560 miles) southeast of Jakarta, said Bhatir district spokesman Soemartono.

The eruption, which showered volcanic

dust, sand and gravel on Bhatir and the neighbouring district of Kediri, also injured 64 people.

Soemartono said hundreds of houses and tens of thousands of hectares (acres) of food crops were damaged or destroyed in Bhatir, although no estimate of total property damage was available yet.

Some of the more than 10,000 people who fled during the eruption have returned to their homes, he reported by telephone.

Volcanic dust and thick clouds have all but

disappeared from the sky over the district town of Bhatir, 35 kilometres (22 miles) from the 1,731-metre (5,679-foot) volcano, he added.

Subroto Mojo, volcanology director in Bandung, west Java, said Mount Kelud is one of the nine most active volcanoes in the world. He did not name the others.

Mount Kelud's first recorded eruption, in 1586, killed about 10,000 people, and one in 1919 left 5,000 people dead. A 1966 eruption killed 211 people.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Congress tilted to right: The US Congress edged rightward in 1989 despite "flashes of courage" on abortion, flag-burning and capital gains taxes, the Liberal Americans for Democratic Action says.

A compilation of voting records on 20 key issues by the ADA showed an average 50 per cent approval of the liberal position in the House, down from 52 per cent in 1988, and a decline from 52 per cent to 48 per cent of liberal causes in the Senate.

With 100 per cent "right" votes on the 20 issues, the group hailed Democratic Sens. Paul Simon of Illinois and Patrick Leahy of Vermont as its "liberal champions" in the Senate. (AP)

Rabbi dies after shooting: Rabbi Haskel Werzberger, an Auschwitz survivor who was shot in the head during the robbery of his car, died early Monday in a Manhattan hospital, officials said in New York.

Werzberger, a leader in an Hasidic Jewish sect, died at 12:30 am (0530 GMT) with his family present at Bellevue Hospital room, said hospital administrator Robert Frazier.

The rabbi was fatally wounded above the left eye as he sat in his car early Thursday.

After the shooting, the assailant dragged him out of the car, dumped him in the street and drove away, police said. (AP)

Drought year looms: Unless California gets rains of biblical proportions in the next two months, a drought will enter its fourth year, forcing one city to outlaw lawn-watering and others to require serious water cutbacks.

Los Angeles is drafting a water conservation incentive programme, farmers in Turlock are using well water to offset reservoir shortages and merchants along drunken Volcan lake near Sacramento are bracing for a decline in visitors.

The state's precipitation stood at 60 per cent of normal on Feb 1 for the rainy season beginning Oct 1, 1989. The 154 largest reservoirs were at 74 per cent capacity and the water content in the snow pack was at 40 to 50 per cent of normal, officials said. (AP)

Acid rain conference: Scientists from around the globe gather in South Carolina on Monday to review a 10-year study of acid rain that may be the most comprehensive ever on the issue.

About 1,000 researchers from 11 US government agencies spent \$500 million compiling 28 separate reports on the causes and effects of acid rain and proposals to curb it.

One conclusion of the study likely to provoke controversy at the conference is that acid rain generally isn't harming forests in the United States, said Joseph Barnard, a US Forest Service researcher, who headed up the work of forest scientists.

The World Resources Institute, a Washington-based environmental group, said "evidence is unambiguous" that acid rain and ozone contribute to the deaths of trees in the south, east and west. (AP)

Showdown over furs: This small mountain town Aspen — a winter playground for the likes of financier Donald Trump and a long list of Hollywood film stars — will vote on Tuesday on whether to become the first US community to outlaw the sale of wild-animal furs.

The issue has polarised leaders and the 3,200 registered voters of this one-time silver-mining town.

One side feels media attention on the proposal has helped in a year of sparse snowfall. But the other side feels uncomfortable that Aspen is in the international spotlight for something other than its world-class ski slopes, glitterati and million-dollar housing.

The fur-ban proposal came from Mayor Bill Stirling and his wife, animal-rights activist Katharine Thalberg, just as the winter season opened and the opulent were converging in their private jets. (Reuters)

Asia

Meet to update UN chief: The five permanent Security Council members planned to meet Monday with UN Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar to update him on efforts to enhance the world body's role in the Cambodia peace process.

Representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France gathered in New York Sunday night for a working dinner to resume talks on Cambodia that began last month in Paris.

A spokesman for the UN mission to the United Nations said the substantive work of the two-day session was planned for Monday.

After meeting with the UN Secretary General, the officials of the five countries were scheduled to convene for a full day of talks. Proposals under discussion include plans for the United Nations to administer the Southeast Asian country and supervise elections there. (AP)

Foreign editor of the Independent

Ashford dies of cancer

LONDON, Feb 12. (AP): Nicholas Ashford, foreign editor of the Independent and a veteran South Africa and Washington correspondent, has died of cancer, the newspaper said today. He was 47.

Ashford was appointed foreign editor last year, after serving as deputy foreign editor since the paper was launched in 1986. He became ill last August, when he gave up his weekly column on world affairs, and died Saturday.

Ashford was a respected foreign and diplomatic correspondent for the Times of London before joining the Independent. In a front-page article in today's Independent, friends and colleagues praised him as a dedicated and talented writer and journalist.

"His writing was very much the man — quiet, unassuming but with an enormous authority. He didn't display emotions up front, but he was very caring about people," wrote Benjamin Pogrund, who was deputy editor of the Rand Daily Mail when Ashford was the Times' Southern Africa correspondent.

"Nick Ashford played a crucial role in our success," said Andreas Whittam Smith, editor of the Independent. "He set high standards which helped to build the newspaper's reputation."

"He was the best journalist I ever worked against," said Quentin Peel, Moscow correspondent of the Financial Times, who knew Ashford in Africa. "He was generous, scrupulous and accurate, and yet a bloody good writer and a delightful man."

It's so said that he should go the day before Mandela was released. He would have welcomed it with private joy and then written about it with typical balance and insight.

Ashford also was described as an understanding editor, who served as a teacher to young correspondents in far-flung posts.

Ashford covered the Reagan administration from Washington, and also wrote about Portugal's April 1974 revolution and the turmoil in Angola and Mozambique.

Ashford was born March 12, 1942. After a brief stint as a military officer, he began his career at the Middle East News Agency in 1966. He joined the Financial Times in 1967 and moved on to the Times in 1969.

IRA claims downing helicopter

Three British soldiers hurt in forced landing, says RUC

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Feb 12. (AP): Police said gunfire forced a British army helicopter down near the border with the Irish Republic yesterday, and an anonymous caller claimed the IRA shot it down.

Three soldiers were taken to a hospital with injuries suffered in the forced landing near the village of Colgher in county Tyrone, a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary said.

None of the soldiers was thought to be

seriously hurt, the spokesman said.

There was gunfire, but it was not immediately known whether any shots hit the Gazelle helicopter, which had been on a reconnaissance flight, the spokesman said.

A caller claiming to speak for the Irish Republican Army telephoned the British Broadcasting Corp. with a claim that the IRA shot the helicopter down.

The IRA has been fighting for two decades to drive the British out of the

predominantly Protestant province of Northern Ireland and unite it with the Roman Catholic Republic of Ireland.

A witness, speaking anonymously, said the aircraft had crashed. "The helicopter went over the house very low, and a couple of seconds later we heard the crash," said the woman, who lives near the scene.

"There were shots a few minutes before — 50 or 60 shots from a machine gun," she said.

The area around the helicopter was

sealed off by police and troops last night, and the army fired flares to illuminate the scene as it began an investigation.

The IRA apparently has made army helicopters a priority target. In June 1988 a Lynx helicopter was knocked down by sustained IRA gunfire at Forkhill, county Armagh.

The IRA filmed a large team of men in open countryside tracking the helicopter and firing at it with heavy and light machine guns.

Mongolia TV airs reform demands

BELING, Feb 12. (Reuters): Mongolia has allowed television to broadcast for the first time the demands of a democracy movement seeking to end the Communist Party's monopoly on power.

Residents of the capital, Ulan Bator, said today that state television had shown leaders of the Mongolian Democratic Association (MDA) addressing a rally yesterday and demanding concessions from their communist rulers.

"This was the first time that state television has broadcast the demands of the association," one resident said.

"The government may be taking a softer attitude to the democracy association after seeing what happened in the Soviet Union," he said.

Mongolia, which in 1921 became the world's second communist state after the Soviet Union, is the latest of Moscow's allies to show signs of the kind of changes that have transformed Eastern Europe in recent months.

Moscow's Communist party relinquished its guaranteed monopoly on power last Wednesday, paving the way for a possible multi-party system — exactly what the Mongolian movement wants.

Yesterday's rally, the fifth in the Mongolian capital since December, was attended by students, officials, factory workers, taxi drivers, and domestic help, dressed in colourful traditional costumes, witnesses said.

Television showed T. Eliegdorj, a leader of the MDA, standing on a rostrum in front of the Lenin Museum telling a cheering crowd that the government must grant the movement official status as an opposition party.

Grant

He also demanded that the government grant the MDA a venue for its first congress, scheduled for Feb 18, and give it offices equipped with telephones and copying machines.

State television has in the past shown pictures of the democracy rallies, but never before has it given detailed coverage of the demands, residents said.

"This is good advertising for the movement," said the resident.

"The television has a wide audience."

Mongolia's communist leaders have said they are willing to permit the activities of the MDA but have warned it against breaking the law or violating the constitution.

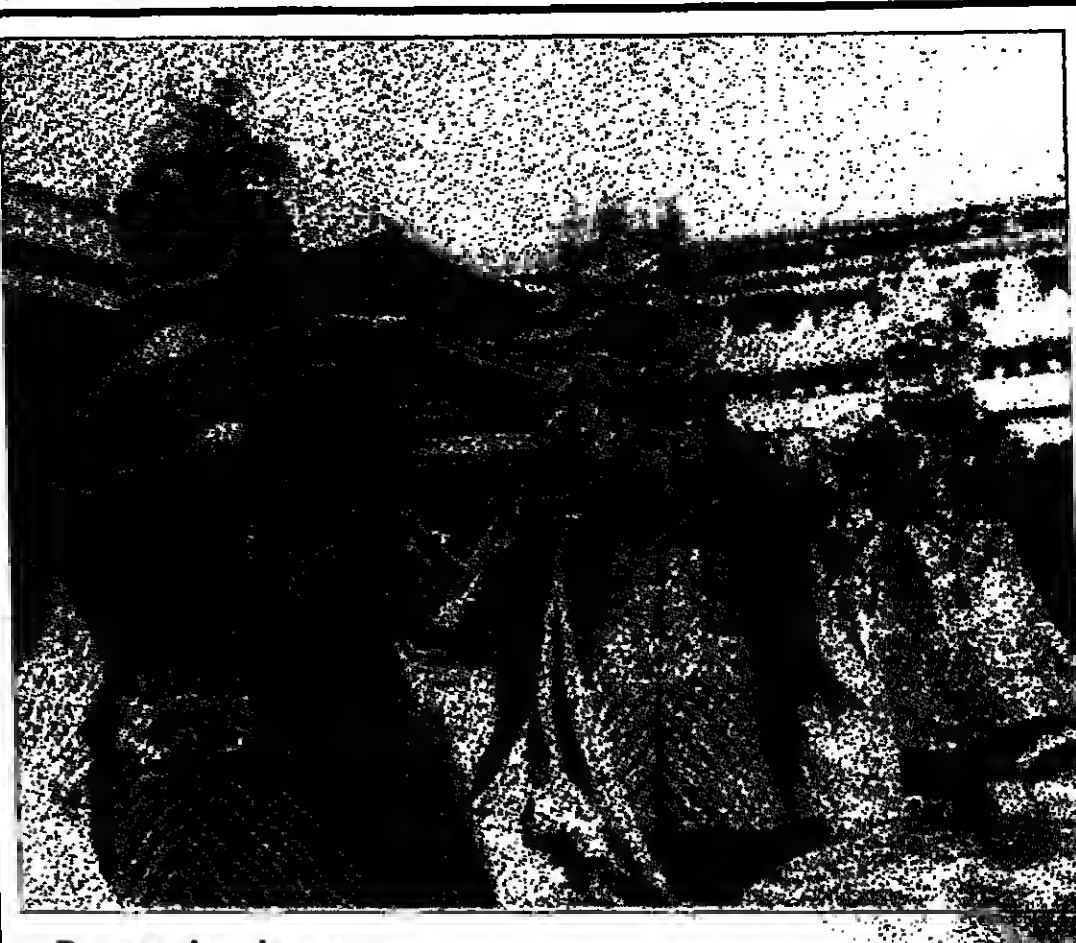
After the MDA defied a government ban in January and demonstrated in the capital, a senior official was quoted in the official press as "strictly warning" it against future breaches of the law.

Some speakers at yesterday's rally called for the resignation of President Zhambyn Batmunkh and Prime Minister Damaglyu Sodnom, accusing them of driving the economy to stagnation.

Batmunkh called last week for dialogue with opposition groups, indicating a possible end to 70 years of monolithic single-party rule.

In the Soviet Union, Radio Moscow also reported the Ulan Bator rally.

In a report quoting the Mongolian News Agency, it said crowds demanding the resignation of the nation's leaders packed the city centre.



Possession dance

Dressed as Tibetan demon gods, Buddhist monks perform a possession dance Feb 9 as part of the Tibetan Butter Festival at Taer Monastery in Huangzhang, in a remote part of Tibet. The festival is a part of the celebrations. (Reuters-wirephoto)

Kaifu explaining...late

Sales tax issue

KOSHIGAYA, Japan, Feb. 12. (Reuters): With only a week to go before Japan's general elections, embattled Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is hammering home long-overdue explanations of his government's unpopular sales tax — and apparently with some success.

Voters' resentment of the tax and disgust with bribery and sex scandals combined to deal the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) a shock defeat in elections last year for the upper house of parliament. Now the LDP is fighting to keep its majority in the lower house, which controls the government.

In campaign speeches, Kaifu has not abandoned his earlier theme of "democracy defeats socialism in Eastern Europe" but he is using it more as a backdrop for plainly-worded arguments defending the three per cent sales tax.

"When I was born, there were 3.54 million of us of the same age. Now, only 1.24 million babies are born a year," Kaifu told a crowd of about 5,000 in the suburb of Koshigaya, north of Tokyo.

"That means, in 20 years time, 2.6 taxpayers will have to support one pensioner. If we depend on income tax alone, your children will be paying double the current rate. That's why we introduced the sales tax."

Some of the crowd, who braved stormy weather at the weekend to gather in muddy fields near railroad terminals, were impressed.

"I really liked the part about the tax. I hated it when they first brought it in last year, but now I can see the point," said Yoko Haba, 47, who runs a coffee shop.

"But why couldn't they do it in the beginning?" she added. She was not a member of the LDP but had been invited by a supporters' organisation.

"I'll vote for the LDP because



Kaifu: success

now myself can explain the sales tax." Haba's daughter, 22-year-old Keiko, said.

Much of the political damage the prime minister is struggling to undo resulted from the abrupt way the sales tax was introduced.

In past elections, the LDP promised it would not introduce a large-scale indirect tax. In December 1988, when former prime minister Noboru Takeshita decided to introduce the bill, it was railroaded through parliament despite opposition and the government failed to explain fully to the public why it believed the extra tax revenue was needed.

Kaifu tries to drive home his overall picture on the household economy by saying that pension payments have been increased to compensate for the sale tax and that consumer prices for imported goods have been falling.

Kaifu also explains LDP plans to modify the sales tax itself to exclude maternity fees, education fees and rent. No foodstuffs will carry levies at the retail level, he adds.

"Bringing down consumer prices is in effect a form of tax cut for the household economy," Kaifu said in Koshigaya.

Kaifu attacked the Japan Socialist Party's plan to reintroduce the commodity tax levied on luxury items as a partial replacement for the sales tax.

4 Turks, 2 Spaniards held Spanish heroin bust

MADRID, Feb 12. (AP): Police continued their crackdown against Turkish and Iranian drug rings, arresting four Turks and two Spaniards who had allegedly smuggled heroin into Spain through West Germany, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman, Manuel Gimenez, said the operation, the 10th in recent months against Turkish or Iranian heroin traffickers, netted about 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of heroin, two firearms, a bullet-proof vest and six million pesetas (\$5,500).

Spain, a major gateway into Europe for Latin American cocaine and Moroccan hashish, is also a regular stop on the route of heroin from Asia and the Near East.

Last year, police seized about the same amount of heroin as they had in 1988, when the total was 470 kilos (935 pounds).

Japan hit by strong quake

TOKYO, Feb 12. (AP): A strong earthquake with a preliminary reading of 5.5 on the Richter scale hit the Pacific coast of northeastern Japan early this morning, the Central Meteorological Agency said.

Police said there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. No tsunami, or huge waves which are triggered by undersea disturbances such as earthquakes or volcanic activity, were generated, the meteorological agency said.

Ryzhkov, Chatichai hold talks on Cambodia

Soviet premier on 2-day Thailand visit as part of Asian-Pacific tour

BANGKOK, Feb 12. (AP): Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov held talks today with his Thai counterpart, Chatichai Choonhavan, the state-owned Radio Thailand reported.

The talks focused on the war in Cambodia, Soviet Ambassador Anatole Volkov has said.

After meeting Chatichai, Ryzhkov was to have an audience with King Bhumipol Adulyadej.

Ryzhkov is on a two-day visit to Thailand as part of an Asian-Pacific tour that also includes Australia and Singapore. Each of the countries on his journey have roles in the Cambodian conflict.

Australia last year proposed that the United Nations play a major role in settling the Cambodian conflict. Its proposal has gained widespread support, particularly from the Soviet Union, which is the main backer of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Thailand plays host to the guerrilla coalition fighting that government, but Chatichai has been at the forefront of recent efforts to bring the opposing factions together.

Singapore is a major supplier of

weapons to the guerrillas.

Volkov said Friday that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, who is in the 10-member delegation accompanying Ryzhkov, was to meet Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila.

Apart from Cambodia, the Soviet military presence in the region also is expected to be discussed.

Moscow recently announced it has withdrawn most of its forces from Cam Ranh Bay Naval base in Vietnam. Volkov said this withdrawal demonstrated that the Soviets are sincere about reducing con-

frontation in the region and that the United States should follow suit.

Volkov said the Soviet presence at Cam Ranh Bay will become purely symbolic, but he did not say when the withdrawal will be completed.

He said, however, that arms supplies to Cambodia had to be stopped as part of an international agreement "which should concern assistance to all parties."

Rival factions in the Cambodian conflict are due to meet in Jakarta Feb 26-28 for another round of informal talks to try to end the 11 years of fighting.

US personnel enjoyed warm relations, however, with residents of the affluent, conservative area 50 miles (80 km) west of London.

Several denounced the scruffy appearance of the protesters and said they did not want the Americans to go.

Bartender Sheila McGuire said the US soldiers who frequent The Wagon and Horse pub are paragons of good behaviour. They've never caused any trouble and are popular with the local women who will miss their gentlemanly style of courtship, she said.

"They are good lads, and some of them even call me 'mom', she chuckled. "My son is in the navy, and I hope he behaves like they do when he goes out for a drink."

Certainly, much of the goodwill is linked to the spending habits of the Americans, who are estimated to put at least \$40 million a year into the local economy through rents for off-base housing, labour contracts and general expenses.

"Landlords try to get everything they can out of the Americans, so maybe rents will go down when they leave," said taxi driver Ken Meager, 41. "But they should have got rid of the peace camps instead of the nuclear weapons."



Rogachev (right) shakes hands with Savetsila (left) after exchanging documents. (Reuters-wirephoto)

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

Kremlin offers troop pullout from Poland

US fails to respond at Open Skies meeting

MOSCOW, Feb 12, (Agencies): The Soviet Union offered to negotiate the withdrawal of its troops from Poland as part of an overall cutback of its military presence in Eastern Europe.

It also said it was ready to begin reducing its troop strength in the East bloc without waiting for a treaty to be signed with the United States. In a statement published yesterday by the official Tass news agency, the Kremlin declared that the cold war was over and said it was time to begin "the gradual dismantling of the outdated model of the European balance of forces."

Superpower talks on cutting conventional armies in Europe have accelerated in recent months as communist regimes have collapsed in East bloc countries.

"In this situation, it is of importance not to miss the historic chance and to supplement political détente by a relaxing of tension in the military field in good time," the government statement said.

President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush have called for major troops cuts in Europe, and the Soviet Union already is negotiating with Czechoslovakia and Hungary on troop withdrawals.

"If the government of the Republic of Poland expresses an

appropriate desire, we could discuss with its representatives the question of Soviet troops in that country," the Kremlin said.

The Kremlin statement said the Soviet Union was prepared to begin cutting troop strengths in the East bloc unilaterally, without waiting for an official treaty to be signed at the Vienna conference on conventional forces in Europe.

"There are misgivings that the results of the Vienna talks may lag behind the pace of reforms in Europe," the statement said.

As a result, "the Soviet Union and other Warsaw treaty member states, without waiting for the conclusion of Vienna accords, are already taking steps toward unilateral cuts in their armed forces (and) making them structurally incapable of attack," the Kremlin said.

The statement said the withdrawal of Soviet troops from East Germany, which is host to about two-thirds of the Soviet soldiers in Eastern Europe, was a separate issue.

"The stay of foreign troops in both the GDR (East Germany) and the Federal Republic of Germany is a special issue connected with the four powers' obligations arising from the outcome of World War II, and it may be tackled only with due regard to the security interests of all the states concerned," the statement said.

The United States last night failed to make a recommendation to NATO allies on the latest Soviet troop cut offer and the Western alliance seemed a long way from taking a unified position on it.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Warsaw Pact foreign ministers, in Canada for the 23-nation Open Skies Conference, also appeared split on whether a unified Germany would become a NATO member or be neutral.

Each alliance, in separate meetings, discussed the fast-moving German unification and efforts to reach a conventional forces treaty in Europe, participants said. The two alliances then dined together.

In particular, the two sides discussed Gorbachev's weekend proposal that the superpowers reduce their troops in Europe to either 195,000 or 225,000 on each side.

Gorbachev's offer effectively rejected Bush's desire for the United States to keep 30,000 more troops in Europe than the Soviet Union.

US Secretary of State James Baker had said he would recommend to NATO allies in Ottawa a response to the Soviet offer, but administration officials said he outlined the plan last night without offering a response.

The Bush administration is known to be split on how far to reduce US troop levels in Europe. Some hawkish members want Washington to insist on more troops than the Soviet Union as an acknowledgement that the West won the cold war.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told reporters that NATO needed more time to consider the latest Soviet offer.

"It's reasonable to have a little time to consider that, so I think the US wanted to consult their allies and that's what they are doing," he said.

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner told reporters that delegations of the two alliances would take up the Soviet offer at Vienna talks with a view to reaching a conventional forces reduction treaty for Europe.

On the other hand, Soviet spokesman Vitaly Churkin told reporters that West Germany's suggestion that a United Germany be a NATO member had been "strongly rejected" in Moscow.



British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd (left) talks with Genscher in Ottawa. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reunited Germany seen part of Nato

WASHINGTON, Feb 12, (AP): NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner emerged yesterday from talks with US President George Bush to suggest that a reunified Germany could be a part of the Western alliance without extending NATO's military reach over the territory that is now East Germany.

Woerner said a way can and will be found to keep a united Germany in NATO while recognizing "the legitimate security interests of the Soviet Union." Following two days of talks at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, both Bush and Woerner hailed what the White House called West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's "extraordinarily successful" talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow.

Kohl said Saturday he got "unequivocal" assurances from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that Moscow would respect the right of the two Germanys to decide for themselves on the timing and structure of their reunification.

The White House said Bush and Woerner agreed that NATO "should adopt new political roles," including helping shape US policies toward the East Bloc nations now shifting toward democracy.

Woerner spoke with reporters outside Washington before boarding a US Air Force jet to Ottawa, Canada, and an international conference on "open skies."

Secretary of State James Baker also was bound for Ottawa yesterday following his six-day trip to Moscow and Eastern Europe. At a news conference in Moscow on Friday night Baker had said US policy calls for full German membership in NATO or "association" with the alliance for a reunified Germany.

A senior administration official later clarified that remark, saying full NATO membership still was the only US goal for a reunified Germany.

Both Baker and the official endorsed a proposal by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher that while a United Germany should be a NATO member, Western troops would not move into the territory that is now East Germany.

West German called British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher a "nagging and small-minded" scold today for her lukewarm attitude to German unity.

The fury followed Thatcher's call for "massive consultation" across Europe about German unity.

E. Germany seeks \$9b aid

Berlin to become capital

WEST BERLIN, Feb 12, (AP): East Germany today asked Bonn for up to \$9 billion in financial aid, while a cabinet minister in East Berlin accused West Germany of waging a "psychological campaign" against the government.

The pace toward unification of the two German states quickened over the weekend, after Chancellor Helmut Kohl received approval from the Soviet leadership.

As communist Premier Hans Modrow prepared for his summit in Bonn tomorrow and Wednesday, the national negotiators guiding the country met this morning for their 12th session in East Berlin.

The negotiators adopted a request to the West German government for a contribution of between 10 billion marks and 15 billion marks — \$6 billion to \$9 billion.

According to the request, Kohl promised the aid to Modrow during a summit meeting last December in Dresden.

The negotiators called the money a "contribution of solidarity" to help the East German economy out of its growing crisis.

The negotiations bring together the communists, their government coalition partners and the eight cabinet ministers without portfolio from the nation's pro-democracy parties. Church and union representatives also are among the delegates from the 16 groups taking part in the discussions, which are broadcast live on East German television.

The negotiators voted against a Bonn proposal to join the two nations' currencies as a way to prop up the East German mark. The move bars Modrow from dealing with the issue during his trip to Bonn.

East German Cabinet Minister Wolfgang Ullmann, of the

pro-democracy Democracy Now group, bitterly criticized the West German government at the start of today's session.

"Bonn is trying to discredit the government here at home and to put it under international pressure," Ullmann said.

He referred to the East German government's anger over an assertion from a high-ranking West German official who said last week that East Germany was near bankruptcy and was considering moving up its March 18 election date.

Ullmann said the West Germans were waging a "psychological campaign" against Modrow's government.

The communist premier has had to learn about West Germany's positions regarding unification "from reading the newspapers rather than from the usual diplomatic channels," according to Ullmann.

After returning from talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday, the West German chancellor said Moscow had not attached any conditions to approval of the historic step of unification.

Kohl and West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher got the go-ahead from Gorbachev during talks on Saturday in the Soviet capital.

Genscher said he hoped a final unification plan could be worked out and presented to a full European summit in October or November, to complete the unification this year.

Forty-five years after Nazi troops battled advancing Soviet forces in Berlin, plans are underway to bring the capital of a united Germany back to this historic city.

Dismissed as a nostalgic dream just four months ago, German unification has become increasingly likely, Kohl says the historic step could come by the end of this year.

Their decision came when they were unable to agree on crucial issues, including a controversial tax bill and annual promotion and retirement lists of military officers.

The state-owned television station ERT-1 said New Democracy leader Constantine Mitsotakis, Pasok chief Andreas Papandreu and Communist leader Harilaos Florakis would meet President Christos Sartzetakis late today to discuss the crisis.

The prime minister headed for the presidential palace earlier in the evening to hand his resignation to Sartzetakis, the private antenna TV station said.

The cabinet collapse occurred after a wave of strikes threatened to cripple the economy. Zolotas said there was an acute shortage of funds in the



Russians demonstrate

A demonstrator wearing a mask raises his fist as another holds a Russian nationalist flag Feb 11. Hundreds of Russian nationalists of the Russian Popular Front gathered in Pushkin Square. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Don't pass the buck'

Gorbachev warns local leaders

MOSCOW, Feb 12, (Reuters): President Mikhail Gorbachev has warned local Communist Party leaders not to side-step mounting problems as they prepare for a tough fight in forthcoming elections, Pravda reported today.

The Communist Party newspaper said Gorbachev, who is struggling to restore party morale after many local leaders were forced to resign, said party workers were trying to pass the solution of problems to democratically-elected local councils now being set up.

"Since we have still not formed managerial mechanisms that could solve problems affecting the day-to-day life of people, first secretaries of party committees have no right to shirk decisions," Gorbachev said.

"Can the first secretary of a district party committee say 'this is not my business'? That is nonsense. Let the party secretary call all the party and non-party people and ask them: 'Comrades what do you think about this?' This is a matter of the fate of people. Can we simply stand aside?"

Gorbachev made the remarks at a meeting with local party workers on Thursday following last week's session of the policy-making Central Com-

mittee when the Communist Party agreed to give up its 70-year-old monopoly on power.

"I think the people do not believe that all the party without exception bears the blame for everything," Gorbachev said in an apparent reference to the wave of popular discontent which has swept away local leaders across the country.

The party must show that what had happened in the past had been due to "deformation perpetrated during the implementation of the socialist idea," he added.

Elections in the next few weeks are expected to pose a major test for local party leaders, who are being encouraged by Gorbachev to seek popular mandates by standing for local Soviets or councils.

Many local leaders within the Russian federation and the Ukraine, the two largest of the 15 Soviet republics, have been forced to step down.

Miners in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk plan to picket city and regional committee meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday to demand the resignation of local leaders.

Yuri Olderev, a representative of the local miners' strike committee, said his members were angry about attacks on Gorbachev and his reform programme by hardline local leaders.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet group threatens to hold Congress

A group of progressive communists demanded yesterday that the party leadership give a role in organising the 28th party congress this summer and threatened to hold an alternative congress if the demand is not met.

The group, calling itself the Communist Party democratic platform, met in Moscow Sunday and adopted a statement saying the Central Committee plenum held last week did not go far enough in moving toward democratic reform.

The group, which includes well-known progressives such as political maverick Boris Yeltsin, economist Gavril Popov and historian Yuri Afanasyev, said the plenum failed to democratise the election procedure of delegates to the congress, slated for late June or early July. (AP)

Soviet submarines breach Swedish waters

Soviet submarines have illegally breached Swedish waters in dramatically stepped-up operations since President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power, according to a study released Sunday by a US research group.

In one case, a Soviet mini-submarine got as far as Stockholm harbor, coming within a mile of the royal palace, said the Rand Corp. report. "Stranger than fiction: Soviet submarine operations in Swedish waters."

The report, sponsored by the US Air Force, said the incursions have undermined Soviet relations with Sweden, fuelled public fears of Soviet intentions there and led in 1987 to the first real increase in Sweden's defence budget in 15 years. (AP)

Bulgarian communists split: Reformers

split from Bulgaria's crisis-ridden Communist Party on Sunday to form an alternative socialist party along social democratic lines, the state BTA news agency reported.

The Alternative Socialist Organisation (ASO), a reformist faction within the Communist Party, approved the split at a conference called to consider whether to remain in the ruling Communist Party.

BTA said about 600 people immediately joined the new party, and ASO leader Nikolai Vassilev told the Associated Press that he expected 80,000 to 90,000 eventually would join. (AP)



Rally

Thousands of people attended four-hour rally in Kishinev, Moldavia, before a forthcoming election. The meeting was organized by the Moldavian Popular Front and involved local leaders, Soviet people's deputies and representatives from grassroots movements. (Reuters wirephoto)

Inventor of velcro is dead

Inventor George de Mestral, whose velcro fastener stuck so well with the public that it replaced millions of buttons and zippers, has died at his home, his wife said Monday. He was 82.

De Mestral's wife, Helen, said he died on Thursday from complications of bronchitis and other lung problems. He had been sick for about three weeks, she said by telephone from their home in this village near Lake Geneva. (AP)

Greek prime minister resigns after political parties pull out ministers from cabinet

ATHENS, Feb 12, (Agencies): Prime Minister Xenophon Zolotas resigned today after the three main political parties supporting him withdrew their ministers from his cabinet, officials said.

The three parties, which pledged support when he formed a national unity government in early December, said they would continue to support him in parliament after he formed a caretaker government to take the country through fresh elections April 8.

Officials said Zolotas resigned after the conservative New Democracy Party, the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) and the Communist-led alliance of the left pulled their ministers out of his government today.

Their decision came when they were unable to agree on crucial issues, including a controversial tax bill and annual promotion and retirement lists of military officers.

The state-owned television station ERT-1 said New Democracy leader Constantine Mitsotakis, Pasok chief Andreas Papandreu and Communist leader Harilaos Florakis would meet President Christos Sartzetakis late today to discuss the crisis.

The prime minister headed for the presidential palace earlier in the evening to hand his resignation to Sartzetakis, the private antenna TV station said.

The cabinet collapse occurred after a wave of strikes threatened to cripple the economy. Zolotas said there was an acute shortage of funds in the

treasury, and to grant more pay to striking workers would have a shattering effect on the economy.

The three parties supporting his government face another showdown Feb 23 on the choice of a new president, elected by a parliamentary vote. Under the constitution, the leading candidate needs a two-thirds majority to win.

Political analysts said the present makeup of Parliament, in which no party holds even a simple majority, meant no candidate could hope to win because the legislature is almost evenly divided between right- and left-wing deputies.

The constitution provides for fresh general elections if no candidate wins two-thirds in three rounds

of voting in the Vouli, or Parliament. In the legislature that comes in to being after fresh elections, a simple majority is needed to elect the president.

With presidential elections scheduled for later this month, new elections became inevitable over the weekend when former president and New Democracy founder Constantine Karamanlis rejected the candidacy offered by the party.

New Democracy then said it would not support any other candidate.

The Conservatives hold 148 seats in the 300-member unicameral parliament. Any candidate for the largely ceremonial post of president has to win at least 180 votes in parliament or else general elections must be called, according to the constitution.

Butcher generals die in Romania

BUCHAREST, Feb 12, (AP): Two generals who led the attack on demonstrators in Timisoara, where the revolution that toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu began, have died, Romania's chief prosecutor was quoted as saying yesterday.

Eleven other police officers have been charged with complicity in genocide and seven officers with facilitating genocide in connection with the bloodshed in the western city of Timisoara, prosecutor Gheorghe Robu was quoted in the newspaper Adevarul as telling the Romanian news agency Rompres.

No date was set for their trial, the first for those who fought against the revolution in Timisoara. Four of Ceausescu's top aides were convicted of complicity in genocide in Bucharest last week and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The report gave no causes of death for Gen. Maj. Constantin Nuta, ex-deputy of the interior minister and chief of the general police department, and for Gen. Mihalea Velicu, his deputy in the police department.

Colonel Petre Moraru, also awaiting trial in Timisoara on charges of complicity in genocide, committed suicide by hanging himself in prison last week.

Robu was quoted as saying the two generals "organized and directly led" police and officers of Ceausescu's hated Securitate secret police, who fired on demonstrators.

The four Politburo members convicted of genocide testified at their trial that they went along with Ceausescu's order to fire on the demonstrators.

Initially, tens of thousands were reported dead, but the actual figure is probably in the hundreds — though no final count has been released.

Neo-Gaullists re-elect Chirac to head party

PARIS, Feb 12, (AP): Former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has been re-elected to head France's main conservative party, the neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic, but political analysts expect challenges to his leadership to continue in the months ahead.

A motion by Chirac's supporters obtained two-thirds of the vote at a party convention yesterday against an insurrectionist motion put forward by two men who both served as cabinet ministers under Chirac, Philippe Seguin and Charles Pasqua.

Seguin leads a reform movement on the left wing of the party and Pasqua, a long-time friend of Chirac, heads the right wing.

Chirac, 57, who is also the mayor of Paris, was re-elected party leader for a three-year term with 100 per cent of the vote after his motion was approved. He had threatened to resign if his motion lost.

UNBOUND

Winnie back to spotlight

Blunt, rash, emotional ... people like her



Mandela: portrait of defiance (Reuters wirephoto)

SOWETO, South Africa, (AP): The government banned her, the anti-apartheid movement shunned her, and legal battles cloud her future. But Winnie Mandela has survived to reclaim her role as one of South Africa's most prominent and defiant activists.

Winnie, the 55-year-old wife of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, vanished from public view in February 1989 when leading anti-apartheid groups repudiated her and accused her bodyguards of waging "a reign of terror."

Since then, there has been no formal statement of reconciliation between Winnie and the anti-apartheid movement.

However, she has resurfaced with high-profile appearances at opposition rallies alongside the seven ANC leaders released from prison Oct 13. And the relentless speculation about her husband's release kept her too at the centre of the political stage, as she emerged from visits

with him to issue predictions on when he might be freed.

"She is blunt, rash, emotional and speaks from the heart — that is why people respond to her and why she is controversial," said Fatima Meer, author of a best-selling biography on Nelson Mandela.

"Even during the crisis, Winnie had the support and loyalty of many, many people," Mrs Meer said in an interview. "She will remain highly visible and widely respected."

In their recent meetings, 71-year-old Mandela, the country's best known black leader, reportedly told his wife not to talk to the press, and she remained silent for several months. However, she began to speak out again recently.

"I am no significance to anybody as an individual," she told Tribune magazine. "To attack me is to attack Mandela, to attack the ANC."

The ANC has expressed concern about some

of her statements. ANC spokesman Tom Seibma, based in Lusaka, Zambia, noted she has no formal position in the organisation. But he added that Winnie Mandela "remains an important part of the struggle."

Winnie's provocative statements and courageous defiance of government restrictions made her one of the most visible symbols of black resistance. Her followers often referred to her as "mother of the nation."

She married Mandela in 1958, when she was a 24-year-old social worker and he was a 40-year-old ANC leader. Four years later, he was arrested and went to prison. Winnie now has two grown children.

Winnie was under police restriction almost continuously from 1963 to 1986. She was arrested many times and held in solitary confinement for 17 months in 1969-70.

However, the repeated police actions inspired defiance in Winnie.

She often appeared at funerals of slain activists to give fiery speeches and salutes with a clenched fist. She wore flowing dresses of black, green and gold, the colours of ANC, which was banned.

But her questionable political judgement, sometimes imperious style and reluctance to consult with anti-apartheid groups led her into repeated conflict with both white authorities and the black community.

Long-simmering disputes boiled over last year when Winnie's bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Soccer Club, were accused of abducting four youths and beating one to death.

Nine people associated with the club are in custody for the death of 14-year-old Stompie Seipei, allegedly kidnapped by the soccer team in December 1988 and beaten at Winnie's home. The case was a major embarrassment for Winnie.

Mandela, de Klerk out on a precarious course

Black hopes, white fears

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, (AP): Black hopes, white fears.

These are the crucial factors that Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk must address as they set out on a precarious path in the direction of democracy and reconciliation.

For South African blacks, Mandela's release Sunday was cause for unprecedented jubilation. Hundreds of thousands, danced for joy in the streets of their cities and townships, convinced at least momentarily that their own political freedom was a big step closer.

Many whites were far less happy. Liberal leaders lauded De Klerk for boldness, but businessmen and homeowners worried about a possible upsurge of violence, police struck back hard at rowdy black revellers, and right-wing politicians accused the president of surrender.

"It's complete capitulation," said Koos Van der Merwe, spokesman for the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, when he learned Mandela would go free. "When the time comes, and they want to enforce black communist government on the whites, they will have to do it by force. We won't accept it passively."

De Klerk, raised in a prominent Afrikaner family that believed whites were destined to rule, is not yet on the brink of capitulation. His proposals for power-sharing between blacks and whites stop well short of the one-person, one-vote system demanded by Mandela and the African National Congress.

But the president's move in the past 10 days have taken both his supporters and opponents by surprise. When the cautious, low-key politician took office last August, few South Africans would have predicted he would transform the political landscape by lifting a 30-year ban on the ANC, suspending executions, freeing prominent prisoners and telling militant exiles they can come back home.

Those moves have restored some international goodwill for South Africa, but De Klerk's standing among his own white constituents may depend on whether the ANC is willing to meet him part way with concessions of its own.

The president's brother, liberal political analyst Willem de Klerk, has met several times with ANC leaders and predicted in a recent article that the movement would make compromises. These might include official renunciation of violence and modifications of the ANC's socialist economic platform, he said.

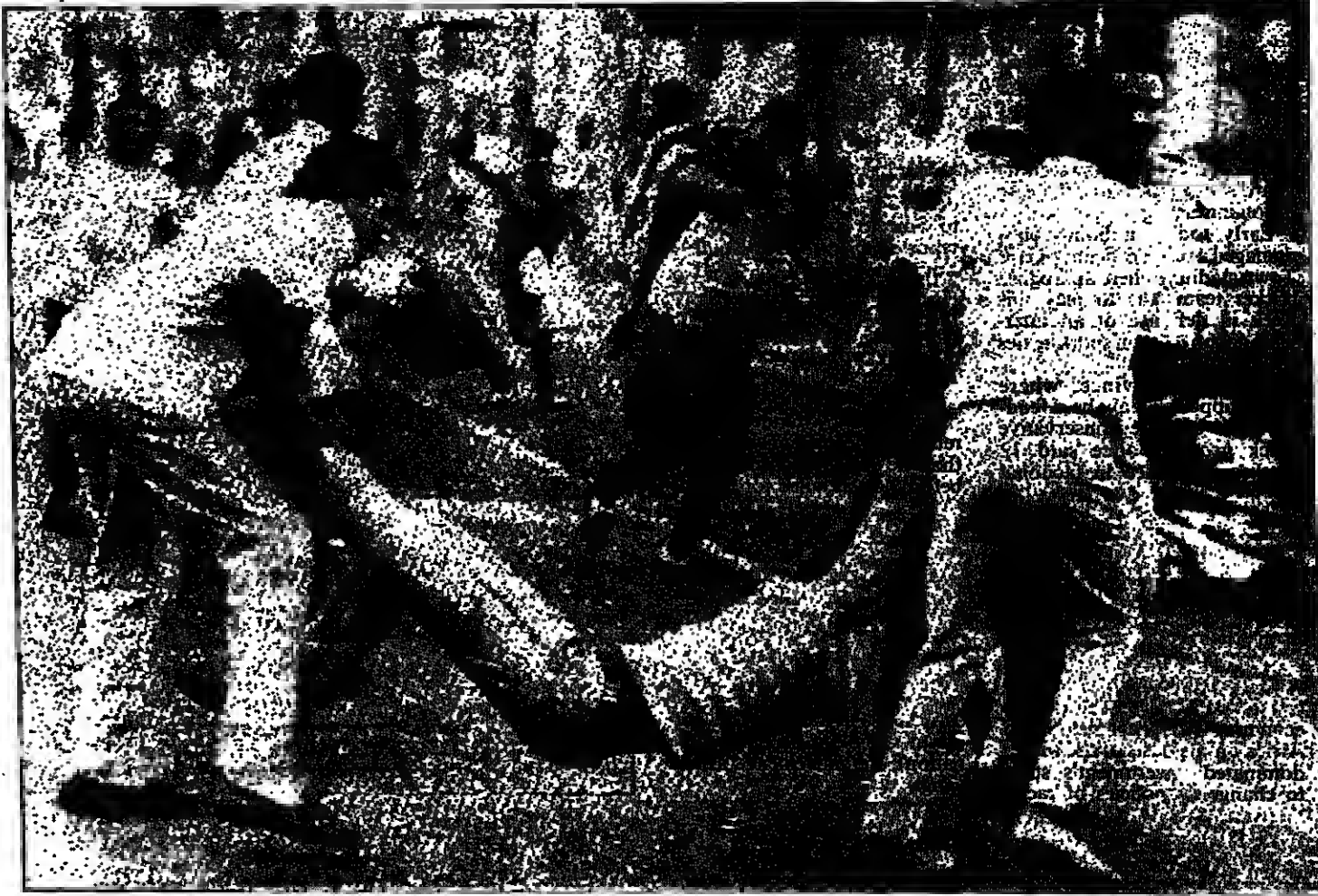
But Mandela, in his first speech since his 1964 treason trial, told a huge crowd in Cape Town on Sunday that the time for compromise had not arrived. He reaffirmed his support for the ANC's guerrilla campaign and urged his followers to "intensify the struggle on all fronts."

He declared himself a "loyal and disciplined member" of the ANC and said nothing to substantiate South African press speculation that he might be at odds with some hard-line members of his movement's exiled leadership.

The speech was not likely to reassure uneasy whites, but was almost certain to be well-received in the townships, particularly among young militants — hardened by years of street battles with police — who might have been wondering whether Mandela had mellowed.

Mandela's only admonition to the youths was to be disciplined. "I hope you will disperse with dignity," he said at the end of an evening marked by clashes between looters and police. "Not a single one of you should do anything which will make other people say we can't control our own people."

Beyond the ranks of his own followers, Mandela faces the



Injured people are carried to nearby ambulances, Feb 11 after they were shot by S. African police, during clashes that ensued after Mandela's release. (Reuters wirephoto)

Prisoner of change

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 12, (Reuters): By opening the cell door for Nelson Mandela, President F.W. de Klerk has started a process of change in South Africa he may be unable to control.

De Klerk, according to some analysts, is himself now a prisoner of change and any return to what he calls "the old South Africa" would mean political suicide.

"The government still believes it can control the reform process it has started, it is kidding itself," the liberal weekly Mail commented in a special edition to mark Mandela's release yesterday after 27 years in prison.

In the short term, De Klerk has seized the initiative with a series of bold steps that have left right-wing foes speechless with rage and caught black anti-apartheid leaders off guard.

"President De Klerk has hardly put a foot wrong since assuming the presidency," said Business Day newspaper, which was a harsh critic of the president's predecessor P.W. Botha.

But it described Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) nationalist group as manifestly unprepared for De Klerk's invitation to negotiate a future without apartheid.

Moreover, any lingering hope De Klerk may have had that Mandela would overturn ANC policy by calling for an immediate end to the armed struggle was dashed by his first public speech.

"We have no option but to continue," Mandela told 30,000 supporters at a Cape Town rally just hours after his release.

challenge of resolving ANC feuds with other black factions to its left and right. To many, he is the only South African capable of that feat.

At the same time, he could boost the ANC's long-term prospects by persuading a significant portion of the 5 million whites that their future in a black-ruled South Africa would be secure. He offered no specific inducements to whites on Sunday, but told them: "The freedom movement is a political home for you, too."

Mandela has said in the past that he is aware of whites' fears of black domination. De Klerk has said repeatedly that he understands blacks' desire for full political rights.

If they can find ways to convert this awareness into steps that make both blacks and whites feel more confident, then the "new South Africa" that both men envisioned in their weekend speeches might actually materialise.

Once the euphoria over Nelson Mandela's release dies down,

But Mandela added a conciliatory note, saying he hoped a negotiating climate would be created soon which would make armed struggle no longer necessary.

Analysts said Mandela's address was a carefully crafted balance between the demands of the ANC's militant youth and the requirements of the man who freed him.

Mandela and De Klerk, moreover, both want to keep up the political momentum, fearing a vacuum would bring the risk of chaos. Some kind of "talks about talks" or "pre-negotiations" seem certain.

On the agenda from the ANC side will be the remaining obstacles to full negotiations: the release of political prisoners, an end to emergency rule and the repeal of the internal security act which restricts political freedoms.

The government wants at least the suspension of the ANC's armed struggle, a commitment the movement says must be mutual. The ANC has long said it resorted to guerrilla tactics only as a last resort to defend itself against state violence.

There has been little evidence of real guerrilla activity by the ANC for some time, however, and the gap on this issue may be narrowing.

A key figure of the ANC's armed wing, chief of staff Chris Hani, told the Johannesburg newspaper New Nation the movement might soon tell its fighters to "cool it" for a while.

A commentary on state radio today called for a "more constructive contribution" by the ANC and said the chief impediment to lifting the three-year

old state of emergency was the continuing black-on-black violence in Natal.

The commentary, reflecting government thinking, said the internal security act could not be on the table in "talks about talks" but would have to be dealt with in full-scale negotiations along with South Africa's race laws.

De Klerk would like to see these full-scale talks as soon as possible. But Mandela, in a key passage of his address, indicated the ANC would need a breathing space of several months to reorganise its leadership and prepare its stand.

"A leader of a movement is a person who has been democratically elected at a national conference," he declared.

The ANC has scheduled such a conference, the first for five years, for June and Mandela was clearly implying that until then he would have no mandate for substantive talks.

Mandela said today he would visit the ANC's exile headquarters in Lusaka as soon as possible to discuss his role.

"No person has the right in our organisation to determine what their role is in the cause of the struggle," he told a news conference in Cape Town, his first since his release.

The ANC leadership says it expects its Swedish President Oliver Tambo to return from Sweden, where he has been in hospital, to resume his duties. But an ANC spokesman in Stockholm said Mandela was likely to visit Tambo in Sweden very soon.

would control internal affairs and protect its racial group's interests. The cantons would be united under a federation that would oversee economic co-operation and other national issues.

Critics reject such plans as "apartheid in another guise" and the ANC and other opposition groups say they will accept nothing less than total democracy.

Mandela has indicated he will not unbend on his insistence on equal rights. Group rights, he has said, perpetuate discrimination and are unacceptable.

"We must work towards a common destiny and that can only be achieved through a non-racial society and not one in which whites continue to demand special political treatment," Mandela was quoted as saying by the South African Press Association.

Mandela has said blacks must achieve equality with whites on all levels before South Africa's divisions will be resolved.

Each canton, under this play,

CAPE TOWN, Feb 12, (AP): Here is the text, as recorded by the Associated Press, of Nelson Mandela's first public speech in nearly three decades, delivered yesterday outside Cape Town's City Hall.

"Comrades and fellow South Africans, I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom for all. I stand here before you not as a prophet, but as a humble servant of you, the people. Your tireless and heroic sacrifices have made it possible for me to be here today. I therefore place the remaining years of my life in your hands."

"On this day of my release, I extend my sincere and warmest gratitude to the millions of my compatriots and those in every corner of the globe who have campaigned tirelessly for my release. I extend special greetings to the people of Cape Town, the city to which, has been my home for three decades. Your mass marches and other forms of struggle have served as a constant source of strength to all political prisoners."

"I salute the African National Congress. It has fulfilled our every expectation to its role as leader of the great march to freedom."

"I salute our president, comrade Oliver Tambo for leading the ANC even under the most difficult circumstances."

"I salute the rank and file members of the ANC: you have sacrificed life and limb in the pursuit of the noble cause of our struggle."

"I salute combatants of Umkhonto We Sizwe (the ANC's military wing) ... who paid the ultimate price for the freedom of all South Africans."

"I salute the South African Communist Party for its sterling contribution to the struggle for democracy: you have survived 40 years of unrelenting persecution. The memory of great communists like ... Bram Fischer and Moses Mabhida will be cherished for generations to come."

"I salute (Communist Party) General Secretary Joe Slovo, one of our finest patriots. We are heartened by the fact that the alliance between ourselves and the party remains as strong as it always was."

"I salute the United Democratic Front, the National Education Crisis Committee, the South African Youth Congress, the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses, and Cosatu (Congress of South African Trade Unions), and the many other formations of the Mass Democratic Movement."

"I also salute the Black Sash, and the National Union of South African Students. We note with pride that you have endured as the conscience of white South Africans, even during the darkest days of the history of our struggle: you held the flag of liberty high. The large-scale mass mobilisation of the past few years is one of the key factors which led to the opening of the final chapter of our struggle."

"I extend my greetings to the working class of our country, your organised strength is the pride of our movement: you remain the most dependable force in the struggle to end exploitation and oppression."

"I pay tribute to the many religious communities who carried the campaign for justice forward when the organisations of our people were silenced."

"I greet the traditional leaders of our country: many among you continue to walk in the footsteps of great heroes ..."

"I pay tribute for the endless heroism of youth: You, the young lions, have emerged our entire struggle."

"I pay tribute to the mothers and wives and sisters of our nation: you are the rock-hard foundation of our struggle. Apartheid has inflicted more pain on you than on anyone else."

"On this occasion, we thank the world, we thank the world community for their great contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle. Without your support, our struggle would not have reached this advanced stage."

The sacrifice of the Front Line states will be remembered by S. African forever.

"My celebrations will be incomplete without expressing my deep appreciation for the strength that's been given to me during my long and gloomy years in prison by my beloved wife and family. I am convinced that your pain and suffering was far greater than my own."

"Before I go any further, I wish to make the point that I entered making only a few preliminary comments at this stage. I will make a more complete statement only after I have had the opportunity to consult with my comrades."

"Today, the majority of South Africans, black and white, recognise that apartheid has no future. It has to be ended by our own decisive mass action in order to build peace and security."

UNBOWED

World cautious on moves made by South Africa

Thatcher isolated once again on sanctions

LONDON, Feb 12, (Agencies): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's call for the world to reward South African President F.W. de Klerk's reforms by lifting sanctions leaves the British leader isolated yet again over ways to end apartheid.

Thatcher wrote to world leaders at the weekend saying now was the time to offer encouragement to Pretoria following the release yesterday of black leader Nelson Mandela and the legislation of his African National Congress (ANC).

Aides said her letter was sent to the leaders of the 12-member European Economic Com-

munity, some major Commonwealth states and heads of the group of seven industrialised nations, which includes the United States, Japan and Canada.

But her call for sanctions to be eased aroused opposition in the community and was countered by Mandela himself in his first speech yesterday, telling a Cape Town rally that sanctions must be maintained as part of a broad effort to end white rule.

Thatcher called the measures, in place for the past five years, "gesture sanctions" and added: "When people are doing the right thing as boldly and courageously as President

de Klerk, it seems quite absurd to still use sticks to beat them with, however, small those sticks may be... what is the use in trying to hit out? Why not help the process?"

Her remarks provoked a quick negative reaction in many quarters, ranging from Ireland, current holder of the EEC presidency, to Britain's opposition Labour Party.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey was planning a "considered" response later today. But Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Brian Lemmon said: "The release of Nelson Mandela, though very welcome, does not

in itself constitute change. It is a start, but only a start."

Labour Party spokesman John Cunningham said Thatcher was "isolated and alone," adding: "She seems to be the only person in the world who wants to weaken the pressure on the white regime."

Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal, EC Development Commissioner Manuel Marin and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis all called for sanctions to be maintained until apartheid in South Africa was abolished.

Britain raised the sanctions issue at a com-

munity foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels a week ago and it will be a key topic at a follow-up meeting in Dublin on Feb 30.

EEC measures against Pretoria ban new investment in South Africa, the promotion of tourism and the import of steel, iron and gold coins.

US President Bush and Congress signalled a go-slow approach toward the relaxation of economic sanctions against South Africa.

Bush offered hope of "a peaceful evolution toward a totally racially free South Africa." Representative William Gray, Democrat-Pennsylvania, applauded the move as

evidence of change, but said: "How far it's going to go, it's too early to determine."

Although the release of Mandela was an important symbolic victory for opponents of apartheid, backers of the sanctions imposed since 1986 to pressure South Africa to change its racial policies demanded more concessions.

Even Bush, who has opposed the sanctions, appeared bound by law to wait and see whether Mandela's freedom is followed by other tangible steps sufficient to meet conditions set by the US Congress for revision or repeal of the sanctions.

30 killed in unrest

'Too early to lift sanctions'

(Continued from Page 1)

unrest, including about 30 deaths, throughout the country since daybreak yesterday. They said a clash between police and looters in Cape Town left one black dead and more than 100 people injured and that a security guard shot a black man to death in Johannesburg.

Early today, a bomb blast damaged a ticket office at a Cape Town stadium where an English cricket team was to play this week in defiance of an international boycott on sporting ties with South Africa.

In Natal province, where ANC supporters have been feuding with a more conservative black group, police said 12 blacks were killed in factional fighting.

US President George Bush said today that he would not lift any sanctions against South Africa — despite the release of Mandela and other changes — until Pretoria meets all conditions set by US law.

"We can't do that," Bush said at a news conference when asked whether he would modify any economic curbs against South Africa on the basis of the white-dominated government's steps to change its policies of racial segregation.

Mandela, 71, said it was too early for the world to lift economic sanctions against South Africa and affirmed his support for the ANC's pledge to nationalise large parts of the country's industrial sector, including the mines and the banks.

He also gave an insight into the torment of being isolated from his family during years of imprisonment, first on Robben Island in Table Bay off Cape Town, then in Pollsmoor maximum-security jail near Cape Town and finally at the Victor Verster prison farm in the Cape Winelands.

"I have lost a great deal over the past 27 years. My wife has been under all sorts of pressures. It is not nice for a man to see his family struggling," he said.

Mandela, at his news conference, said the government's intention when it jailed him and other ANC leaders decades ago "was that we should be forgotten."

Instead, his release from Victor Verster prison was covered by journalists from around the world as an event that could lead to sweeping political change in South Africa.

He denied any conflict between his commitment to peaceful solutions and his endorsement of the ANC's guerrilla campaign.

"I have committed myself to the promotion of peace in the country. But I have done so as part and parcel of the decisions and campaign that have been taken by the ANC," he said. "The armed struggle is a defensive act against apartheid."

The ANC's bombing and sabotage campaign, launched by Mandela and his colleagues in 1961, has been almost completely dormant in the past year. The movement refuses to confirm it scaled back its military actions.

Mandela said his years in prison were hard, although some of the people he encountered there "try to understand your point of view and to make you feel comfortable."

He described De Klerk as a "man of integrity."

"If Mr De Klerk is able to carry the national party with him in the new line he has taken — he wants to normalise the situation as soon as possible — then I think very soon we will be able to begin negotiations," Mandela said.

But he stressed that South Africa's whites should not fear the ANC.

"Whites are fellow South Africans," he said. "We want them to feel safe."

Before starting the news conference, Mandela strolled with his wife and other family mem-

bers around the gardens of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's official residence, where he spent his first night of freedom in 27 years, chatting and acknowledging the salutes and songs of ANC colleagues.

Family lawyer and friend Dullah Omar said Mandela decided this afternoon to return to Soweto and not, as earlier reported, spend a second night at Tutu's mansion.

"The family decided that Mr Mandela should return home to Soweto as soon as possible and not stay any longer in Cape Town," he said.

Waiting Omar said Mandela would return to the tiny concrete house that he shared with his wife before he was jailed for plotting against the white rule.

The house in Vilakasi street has been surrounded by a sea of ANC supporters waiting for their leader since news of his release came two days ago.

"We are waiting for the first commander of MK," a youth yelled through a loud-hailer in a reference to Mandela's role in the early 1960s at the head of Umkhonto we Sizwe (spear of the nation), the movement's armed wing.

Freedom songs and deafening chants about the armed struggle against white rule echoed down the street. "I haven't slept for days with this noise, but I am happy," said Perry Mberc, a close neighbour.

Thousands flocked earlier today to Soweto's Orlando sports stadium, expecting Mandela to arrive and address them. When the rally was cancelled, a crowd of 50,000 surged out of the stadium, across a highway and into Vilakasi street.

Dozens fainted and had to be helped to safety.

Mandela's release caused an eruption of joy among South Africa's black majority and a delighted response from foreign leaders, many of whom campaigned tirelessly for the release of the world's most famous political prisoner.

His release will also mean a major ANC leadership shakeup and the consolidation of the movement's internal and external wings ahead of its return from exile.

Mandela, at his Cape Town news conference, said he wanted to travel to ANC headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, as soon as possible to discuss his role in the newly legalised movement.

Answering a volley of questions with an ease that belied his years of isolation from the media, Mandela said he wanted peace. But he also defended the ANC's 30-year campaign of violence against Pretoria's white rule.

He said he saw no conflict between a commitment to peace he gave to President F.W. de Klerk, a key factor in gaining his freedom, and his support for armed struggle.

"I have committed myself to the promotion of peace in the country... but I have to do so as part of the campaign of the ANC," he said.

He praised De Klerk for his sweeping concessions to black aspirations contained in a speech to Parliament on February 2 in which he lifted the 30-year ban on the ANC, announced the release of some political prisoners and the scrapping of gagging orders on a long list of anti-apartheid activists.

The landmark address has raised expectations that the government and the voteless black majority will be able to agree on sufficient common ground to start talks on South Africa's constitutional future.

"One thing that I have been able to assess is that President De Klerk is a man of integrity. He seems to be fully aware of the dangers to a public figure of making undertakings that he cannot fulfil," Mandela said.



Mandela gives a power salute as he and Winnie go for a walk at the Bishop's court in Cape town. (Reuters wirephoto)



Soweto residents celebrate the release of Mandela during a rally in a stadium. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela daughter jubilant

Dad will break every law

AMHERST, Massachusetts, Feb 12, (UPI): A daughter of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela expressed joy at his release and predicted her father will "break every law" of apartheid to end South Africa's system of racial separation.

Makaziwe "Maki" Mandela-Amuah, 35, an anthropology doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, cried while watching television as her father and his wife, Winnie, strode confidently from the Victor Verster prison near Cape Town.

"At that moment I really felt like I could fly to South Africa... and be with him and embrace him and say, 'We're behind you 100 per cent,'" Mandela-

Amuah said of her father.

"We know this is a momentous period for you. You've been in jail for 27 years, you haven't met so many of your people and just to be out of the prison walls and gates and breathe fresh air among your people," she said.

But she was quick to predict that her father, who was imprisoned for 27 years for advocating the violent overthrow of the white minority government, would continue to challenge authority.

"I realise fully that South Africa hasn't changed and (he) is coming really still to a very hostile environment in terms of blacks in South Africa. And I know my father will not tolerate those

laws that exist in South Africa," Miss Mandela said.

"From this moment on, he's going to do everything in his might to challenge those laws, to break every law that still exists in South Africa," she said.

Because of "academic commitments," she said she would not likely to visit South Africa until the current semester.

Mandela-Amuah is one of Mandela's three children from his first marriage. Mandela's other daughter in the United States, Zenziso Mandela-Dlamini, 31, a student at Boston University, could not be reached by telephone Sunday at her home and did not attend a scheduled morning gathering in Cambridge.



A young boy seeks protection after he was shot with birdshot during clashes between anti-apartheid demonstrators and South African police in Cape Town during Mandela's welcome rally.



A group photo of Mandela together with Winnie (right), Walter Sisulu (left), Albertina Sisulu (right) and grandchildren. (Reuters wirephoto)



A man overcome by the crush of bodies streaming into the Soweto Orlando stadium is carried to safety. (Reuters wirephoto)

Release is not enough: world

LONDON, Feb 12, (Agencies): World leaders sent a clear message to the embattled South Africa government today: Nelson Mandela's release was a good start but sanctions will stay until apartheid is dead.

Governments from Moscow to Maputo welcomed the freeing of the African National Congress (ANC) leader yesterday after 27 years in jail but almost all of them said it was no reason to relax punitive measures against Pretoria.

The point about sanctions is not to secure the release of Nelson Mandela from jail," Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans told reporters. "The point about sanctions policy is to secure the abolition of apartheid."

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news briefing today that "together with all countries and peoples we hail the release of Nelson Mandela."

Gerasimov said Mandela's release was a "step that should have been taken long ago," and he expressed hope that "an end would finally be put to the policy of apartheid."

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) also welcomed the release of Mandela and reiterated solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle of the people of South Africa.

The 50-nation Organisation of African Unity said Mandela's release was "a significant step" toward eliminating apartheid, but also urged caution.

The international community should "not to allow the euphoria of the moment to divert attention from the central issue of dismantling apartheid," the OAU said in a statement released at its Ethiopian headquarters.

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano said sanctions would only be lifted "when the whole world is certain that they are no longer necessary."

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said: "We see no reason at all why those who have been imposing sanctions should relax these sanctions."

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said he hoped the release opened the way "for immediate negotiations for democratic rule."

Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark said his country's sanctions would stay in force until apartheid laws were scrapped.

Street parties were held in some European cities last night. In the Dutch capital, Amsterdam, the ANC flag flew from buses and trams.

In London, thousands of people celebrated outside the South African embassy, where anti-apartheid demonstrators have picketed since April 1986 demanding Mandela's release.

In Asia, Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh called Mandela a "valiant soldier of independence, justice and equality."

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Beijing was "very happy" about the release of a man "respected by all the justice-upholding people the world over, including the Chinese people," the Xinhua news agency reported.

Philippine President Corason Aquino, whose husband was jailed as an opposition leader for seven years and then assassinated, said, "I am very happy for him and his family."

Many heads of government sent Mandela personal messages, including Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammed Ershad, who promised his country would "remain by your side until the victory... is won."

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Monday that Mandela's release was a "... turning point" that would allow South Africa to move toward democracy.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar paid tribute today to the "courage and determination" of Mandela and said he looked forward to meet the freed black South African leader soon.

A UN spokesman noted Mandela had been invited to visit the United States by President George Bush and had also received an invitation from New York City Mayor David Dinkins. Another opportunity for a meeting could occur if Mandela visited Namibia for independence celebrations on March 21 that Perez de Cuellar will also attend.

Palestinians and Israelis today welcomed Mandela's release.

Qurain housing cost KD200 million

Area to be opened in July

CHIEF Engineer Adel Al Turki of the National Housing Authority said that a total of 4,327 housing units had been constructed in the Qurain Project since 1987, of which 3,298 were government houses and 1,029 housing plots, where the total cost reached KD200 million, besides the construction, completion and maintenance of roads and infra-

structural works in different housing areas.

Turki said that 19 schools for varying educational levels were also constructed under the same project, while sanitary sewerages and storm drain networks were provided besides the construction and maintenance of traffic lights for main road interchanges.

He said that of these projects the main district centre in sector AA, whose cost would reach KD7 million, besides the construction of another district centre in Sector B1 and a public garden for the cost of KD3.5, adding that work would be completed late next year.

He added that the Qurain Housing Area would be

ceremonially inaugurated during July this year, and that by then three kindergartens and three elementary schools would have been completed.

Inauguration

He pointed out that the district centre would be located on the middle central road, and the related space area was estimated at 45,000 square metres which

would comprise a number of buildings for various community-services, social, administrative and cultural facilities, besides parking lots and a service backroad.

He added that each centre would be provided with a mosque, a central park on the main pedestrian path, with monumental statues in-between.

Help available for learning disabled

Evaluation centre deals with 'hidden handicap'

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times Staff

"YOU are not crazy, you are not lazy, you are not stupid. You are learning disabled," the doctor told Ahmed when he was thirteen.

He explained to the baffled boy that he should not be ashamed of his condition because great people like Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein were learning disabled. The doctor also promised him that with hard work and specialised supervision he would achieve the best education.

Ahmed is twenty now. He has a bachelor's degree in marine biology and is planning for his Ph.D., thanks to early detection of his problem and constant support from the Centre for Child Evaluation and Teaching.

"Learning disability is not a symptom we can cure. It is a number of difficulties we can teach the kid to go around and cope with. It is something the kid will always have," said Faten Al-Bader, director of the centre.

She added that learning disability is a vast group of disorders such as dyslexia, attention deficit, short-term memory and the inability to express oneself in words.

"One child could see the letters twisted, another may hear background noises such as air conditioning louder and clearer than he hears the teacher in class, the thing that interferes with his attention. Some children have what we call motor problems. They can see a word on the blackboard clearly and they can understand it, but they cannot copy it right. Some children cannot express themselves properly although they have all the words in their minds. Others may have short-term memories. They can remember what they did when they were three but they forget what they learnt yesterday," explained Bader.

She stressed the fact that these children are of average and above average intelligence and



Faten Al-Bader, director of the Centre for Child Evaluation and Teaching.

that they do not have any physical handicaps. "Nobody knows for sure what causes learning disability. There are many theories and a lot of research in the United States, but nothing is proven yet," Bader said adding that it was found that 80 per cent of the cases are hereditary and that it was more common among boys than girls.

Testing

If not detected and dealt with, this "hidden handicap" could lead a child to frustration, low self-esteem, failure and social problems. Bader said that learning disabled children are often misunderstood by their parents and teachers. "They think the children are spoiled or stubborn, and if they do not receive special help, these children can become delinquents. Studies on delinquents in the United States have found that a very high percentage of them are learning disabled."

Bader explained that such dis-

ability cannot be detected before the age of eight because some of its indications such as attention deficit and hyperactivity could be what psychologists call maturity lag. "At this age, a child would have accumulated enough knowledge to be tested," Bader said adding that dealing with the problem after the age of fifteen could become highly complex.

The only centre of its kind in the Arab world has a team of psychologists and education specialists. They test children to determine their intellectual ability and level of educational achievement, in addition to identifying their specific strengths, weaknesses and preferred learning styles. Medical check-ups are also required to eliminate the possibility of physical problems related to hearing or sight.

"After completing the diagnostic assessment, we will recommend one-on-one tutoring by our trained staff," said psychologist Rana Nasr. She explained that most of the cases

they work with have language disabilities which manifest themselves in problems with reading and writing. Nasr added that some children need tactile or visual aids to be able to gain information while others might need smaller classes or shorter study sessions.

One of the problems that face this non-profit organisation is lack of trained manpower. Bader said that the centre does its best to train local staff in this field. She also believes that it is the centre's responsibility to adapt the West's experience to the Arab countries. "It is not a matter of translating tests and standardising measurements. We have to make them fit our culture," she said.

But Bader is optimistic about the future. When the centre was established in 1984, it was a dream come true. Since then it has tested and worked with 553 children. She now dreams of a special school for the learning disabled.

Price hike blamed on international influences

THE chairman of the pricing committee at the Kuwait Co-operative Consumer Societies Union Jabr Rashid Al Dihani has ascribed the rise in commodity prices to the rise in the exchange rates of certain hard currencies against the Kuwaiti Dinar, rise in overland transport charges and the rise in costs of products in the country of origin due to a drop in government subsidy.

He told a local daily that sugar prices were influenced by the international price rise of this commodity, pointing out that this had a great deal to do with the fluctuations of supply and demand. Prices of other commodities fluctuate depending on the yield according to climatic conditions.

He said that the union, based on the international factors involved in the price rise of commodities, left the matter up to the societies to provide the best possible products at the most convenient prices, stipulating that they would not conclude any purchase deals at prices higher than the scale fixed by the union.

He said that the prices of coffee dropped internationally, but underwent no changes in the local markets, adding that the pegging of prices never extinguished the high competition existing between dealers, as a great number of suppliers would attempt to reduce the prices of some of their commodities and this had been true of American and Nigerian coffee on sale at societies.

Recent political events in East Europe were to blame for the shortage in certain types of white cheese, Dihani said. He added that the union is still negotiating with local suppliers over the pegging of prices of cheese. However, no new cheese orders have arrived and consequently no attempt has been made as yet to do that as essential information remained unknown, such as the cost and prices of these white cheese orders.

He said that local dairies had been regularly capable of replenishing the markets with other types of white cheese, while different cow types were currently on the make and would soon be provided to societies and markets.

All products imported and bearing the trademark "Co-operative" were moderately priced and manufactured especially for the union.

The committee determines the price of the commodity based on bills issued by the producer to the supplier, which is identified based on the certificate of origin, bills of lading and purchase bills. Suppliers are asked to produce an official document attested from an accredited agency from the country of origin, to list the going prices of the same commodity in that country and to state reasons for raised prices, change of currency exchange rates, reduction of government subsidy, or rise in the export cost of these products, based on which the committee would attempt to peg the prices of these commodities at the societies.



HH the Amir returns

HH the Amir returned to Kuwait yesterday from Oman after making a three-day visit. He was received by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, other ministers and high officials.

Support for labour union

KUWAIT, Feb 12, (Kuna): Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed today pledged support for the ministry's new labour union and expressed his readiness to overcome obstacles that might face the unionists in practicing their activities.

Sheikh Nasser's remarks were voiced in an audience today with Board chairman and members of the Social Affairs and Labour Union who were elected by the general assembly recently.

Sheikh Nasser also expressed best wishes for the unionists to carry on duties.

The ministry's undersecretary Essa Yassin attended the meeting. The minister also received a Japanese delegation representing a number of Japanese newspapers and television stations.

Talks during the meeting focused on services offered by the ministry of Kuwaiti citizens and activities in international congregations.

The Japanese delegation is on a visit to Kuwait for the media coverage of Kuwait's 29th National Day on February 25.

Later, Sheikh Nasser met with head of the sport's editors committee of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association Adnan Al-Sayid.

Sayid presented a copy of the book "Gulf Sportsmen" from Bahrain to Saudi Arabia written by Cassim Nasser on the occasion of the 10th Arab Gulf Football Tournament due here February 20.

New Pak organisation

A NEW organisation under the name of Pakistan Muslim Itehad Centre has been formed in Kuwait. It will work for the welfare of Pakistanis residing in Kuwait and shall bring them under one banner following the golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam, Mohammad Ali Jinnah (Unity, Faith and Discipline) its office bearers are as follows:

Saeed Qader Sheikh — chief organiser; Mohammad Sadio

Mirza — president; S.M. Ikram — deputy chief organiser and senior vice president; Mohamud Haneef Nadeem, Imtiaz Ahmed Chaudry, Mohammad Nawaz Chaudry, all vice presidents; Sayed Imtiaz-ul-Hasan Gillani, secretary general; Mohammad Anwar Joor, press secretary; J. J. J. secretary; Chaudry Zaher, Faiz, finance secretary and Sayed Islam Shah, joint secretary.

Successful test tube deliveries

THERE have been eight successful test tube deliveries in year at the Maternity Hospital of the Ministry of Health. Dr Mahmoud Matar, director of the hospital, said in an interview that the method used was more than 40 years old and was used to deliver children who were born with congenital defects. He said that the method was used to deliver 100 children in the last year, but only eight of them were born with congenital defects. He said that the method was used to deliver children who were born with congenital defects, but only eight of them were born with congenital defects.

He said that the centre which had been established two years ago was keeping a breast with the more advanced centres in the Middle East. The centre has been provided with the latest equipments and the administration continually strives to upgrade the medical level at the centre.

He thanked the Ministry of Public Health for its positive response to the centre's demands. However, Matar said that the high time to set up a specialised centre to deal with sterility cases — both among men and women.



Duaij receives Osio

Chairman of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah received at his office Sunday the Venezuelan Ambassador to Kuwait Jose de Jesus Osio. They discussed agricultural co-operation between the two countries.



The centre tests children to determine their intellectual ability and the level of their educational achievement.



Word processors have been a real boon for children with various memory problems.

Diversification of agriculture imperative: Mubarak

AGRICULTURE in Kuwait is accorded special concern by the state represented by the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources which exerts significant effort to enhance agricultural lands and diversify agricultural output with the objective of realising self-sufficiency in the agricultural area.

To highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed the chairman of the Abdali Agricultural Society, Sheikh Mubarak Sabab Al Naser and a number of farmers.

Sheikh Mubarak confirmed the importance of diversifying agricultural output and commented that this objective will be realised in the very near future. He said that farmers of Abdali are demanding an extension of repayment period of agricultural credits. He called on the Kuwait Municipality to clean the streets of Abdali Area and to assign a private company to undertake this task as it had done with the

Wafra farms.

The official called for setting up of a special company empowered to market local agricultural products and added that the government spared no efforts to improve the agricultural sector in the country and realise self-sufficiency in the agricultural field, particularly in the vegetable sector.

He added that the material support extended to farmers is insufficient, in view of the steep prices of relevant materials.

He appealed to the government to increase the pertinent support to enable them to meet their increasing expenditures.

Criticisms

Fahed Yusuf Al Ghanim called on authorities concerned to respond to the farmers demands which he described as reasonable. He criticised the red tape followed by the Industrial Bank of Kuwait towards extending agricultural credits and called for providing concessional loans to farmers. He also called

on the municipality to address the cleanliness issue at Abdali farms and added that the Ministry of Public Works should pay more attention to the Abdali Area by constructing inter-farms.

Mutlak Al Masoud called for taking the necessary measures towards establishing an agricultural marketing company. He recalled that the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources had previously endorsed the establishment of such a company, but it is still under discussion by the board of directors of Kuwaiti Farmers Union. He clarified that establishing this company will streamline the problems encountered presently in marketing agricultural output. He criticised the procurement procedures at the vegetable market and commented that this market is witnessing a lot of manipulations.

He disclosed that he is currently carrying out a new project at

his farm at a cost of about KD750,000 and pointed out that the project is based on the green house system.

Meanwhile, the deputy chairman of the Animal Wealth Co-operative Society, Miteb Al Khraimeh called on the chairman and director-general of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth to extend the contracts of building sheep sheds at Kabed Area to ten years instead of six months.

Sheep production

He added that extension of the period will allow owners of sheds to work peacefully and enable them to obtain loans to build these sheds, as the most serious problem that face owners of sheep is the difficulty to pay cost of building sheds. Each shed costs about KD12,000 to build, he said.

He added that the authority is chiefly instrumental in carrying out the vital project to develop the animal production in the Kabed Area. He hoped that

authorities will assist sheep owners to obtain loans from the Industrial Bank of Kuwait.

Khraimeh pointed out that the sheep breeding project in Kabed is considered to be the largest gathering of sheep owners in Kuwait and the Gulf area. The project is envisaged to consist of over 1,220 sheds built from bricks according to the latest international systems.

The project also consists of a veterinary clinic and pharmacy, an automatic slaughterhouse with the latest equipment to recycle remains of the slaughterhouse.

The co-operative is presently conducting studies to see the feasibility of building a factory to collect and process wool of local and imported sheep. The co-operative has also undertaken a scheme to build a supermarket at Wafra Agricultural Area and to build stores for fodder as well as schemes for a factory to grind grain and fodder, shops and a mosque in the same area.

Unified GCC driver's licence a possibility

KUWAIT, Feb 12, (Kuna): Director-general of the Traffic Department Brig. Abdul Hamid Al-Hajji has emphasised the great need to amend the current traffic law and said that a project prepared by the Ministry of Interior calls for stiffer penalties to confront the growing number of accidents.

On future alternatives for technical testing of cars, he said that the ministry is examining the possibility of entrusting an international firm with this task.

Hajji also affirmed that the experiment, which included 20,000 persons, on sending notifications through the mail to renew insurance on cars has proven to be successful and said that the department is studying the broadening of the experiment.

He said that the Gulf Co-operation Council states are nearing an agreement on uniform licence, with a Kuwaiti study to make the validity of the licence 10 years for all GCC states.

X-Ray services Patients bemoan delays

A NUMBER of patients have complained of the shortcomings in services at different hospitals, particularly the length of period to which patients are subjected to radiation.

A local daily toured a number of radiology departments at Al Sabah Hospital and interviewed a number of patients. Some pointed out that long lines of patients have to wait their turns for X-Ray pictures. Conversely, others praised the work organisation and stressed that every care is extended by the department professionals.

However, rebutting the complaints, a number of doctors and technicians said that delays at the X-Ray room are primarily caused by unco-operative patients. They called on all patients to be punctual for their scheduled appointments and commented that some patients refuse to take pre X-Ray medicines due to their unpleasant taste. They stressed that they ensure that patients who need X-Rays are not allergic, particularly in the case of women who are pregnant.

A patient, Ibrahim Saif Al Deen stated that he suffered from a head problem and had entered the hospital for preliminary X-Ray tests and praised the co-ordination of activities with doctors, technicians and nurses. With respect to co-operation of technicians at the radiology department, he indicated that he did not encounter any communication problems as they did speak passable Arabic.

However, another patient, Bushra Al Qabaidi stated that technicians have treated her harshly after keeping her waiting for a long time before proceeding to X-Ray her. She added that dealing with Arab technicians is much smoother than dealing with expatriates. Dr Rajai Qaar, the consultant of the radiology department stated that there are several types of radiation, and patients could be processed through any of these, depending on the diagnoses of the doctor. He added that coloured radiation is not recommended over several tests. Every precaution is taken prior to any patient being X-Rayed, the doctor said.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

GCC central bank governors to meet in Bahrain March 6-8

Banking and investments in 1990s on agenda

By Yakub Razzaque
Arab Times staff

LEADING banking chiefs including four central bank governors in the region will participate in a major international banking conference scheduled to open in Bahrain next month.

"The Middle East - Business, Banking and Investment in a New Era" will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in the island between March 6-8. The event will be inaugurated by Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy, Ibrahim Abdul Karim Mohammed, a statement issued to the Arab Times by the Development Awareness Committee (DAC) of the Ministry of Information announced recently.

Among the prominent speakers at the conference will include: Abdullah Hassan Saif, governor, Bahrain Monetary Agency; Hamad

Saud Al Sayari, governor, Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency; Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al Sabah, governor, Central Bank of Kuwait; Abdul Malik Al Hamr, governor, Central Bank of UAE; Abdullah Ya'acub Bishara, secretary-general, the Gulf Co-operation Council; Prince Abdullah Bin Faisal Turki Al Saud, secretary-general, Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu; Dr Abdullah Al Moajil, former director-general, Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC); Nemat A. Kirdar, president and chief executive officer, Investcorp; Peter Schuring, vice-president, Citicorp/Citibank; Mohammed Bin Musa Al Yousuf, secretary-general, Development Council of Oman; Moriaki Susuki, director international division, Yamaichi Securities Co. Ltd; Sir Patrick Sergeant, chairman, Enromoney Publications.

The idea to hold the conference with Enromoney assigned as the

organiser was initially devised early last year, according to Abdulnabi Al She'ala, member of DAC.

"The committee and Enromoney have worked closely in selecting the theme and topics of the conference since it was devised. Many leading banking and financial institutions in the Arab world were consulted on the topics that need to be discussed," said She'ala.

Systems

According to She'ala this will be the first international conference of its kind to be held in the region which will be an extremely significant and timely event for the Middle East banking and business in general. Abdullah Hassan Saif will speak on the future of Bahrain as a regional and offshore banking centre. Hamad Saud Al Sayari will discuss the future challenges and opportunities for the development of the Gulf's

economic and financial systems. Kuwait's Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al Sabah will evaluate trends of the capital markets in the region, the recovery of the stock markets in recent years, the establishment of new exchanges, new listings and increased local investment.

Abdul Malik Al Hamr will examine the prospects for foreign-based banks in the UAE. Prince Abdullah Bin Faisal Al Saud will highlight the progress and development of Jubail and Yanbu with a review of the incentive to foreign corporations looking for investments in the twin industrial cities. Abdullah Bishara will deal with the role of the Gulf Co-operation Council in furthering the current optimism in the region and make an assessment of the outlook for the 1990s, while Nemat Kirdar will examine the need for more investment banks in the Gulf.

The conference will be chaired by Dr Abdul Elasis Hegazy, former prime minister of Egypt.

Romanian revolution on show

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

ROMANIANS are trying to cash in on their revolution and develop tourism by promising to show foreign visitors sights that no other country can offer.

"Come and see the latest revolution in the world. There are still some demonstrations going on," said Ion Buzatu of Romanian Ministry of Tourism.

Another treat he has in store for tourists next summer is a tour of subterranean facilities under the former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's presidential palace in Bucharest. The underground maze of corridors used by special security forces will be opened for the public shortly.

Buzatu is on a 12-member mission led by Romanian Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Ion Vasilin, the first high-ranking delegation to visit Kuwait since the fall of Ceausescu last December. Vasilin opened an exhibition of Romanian products together with Rashed Al Mijini, Kuwait's undersecretary at the Commerce Ministry.

Although Romania is suffering from the sudden burst of freedom, the government is increasingly focusing efforts on securing foreign capital to help revive the economy which is undergoing a transformation from being centrally controlled to market oriented.

In Kuwait Vasilin is seeking funds for modernisation of a petrochemical plant on the Black Sea through a joint venture that could include oil refining and distribution of oil products in Western Europe. Romanians can also offer cheap transport using the route that includes an artificial waterway linking the Black Sea and the Danube, which links Romania with West Germany. Romania produces about 11 million tons of oil a year but has the refining capacity to handle three times as much.

Vasilin will hold talks with Kuwaiti officials, investment bankers and private sector representatives by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The mission will also visit the United Arab Emirates.

Lloyd Triestino purchases new containers

LLOYD Triestino, the main Italian shipping company has ordered the HFE Gorizia 5,500 TEUs. The Italian company which is part of Fimmare/IRI group will deploy above containers on the various services they are running towards all the continents.

Lloyd Triestino and HFE have already signed the contract for an estimated value of \$20 million. Riccardo, chief executive of the Italian shipping line said the signature of this contract is representing a further positive contribution of Lloyd Triestino to the development of the shipping industry in Italy.

This new order is in addition to the 10,000 TEUs ordered at the beginning of the year. In fact the first lot is at the moment under delivery.

US Oil and Gas Catalogue show

THE Commercial Service of the American Embassy has announced an "Oil and Gas Catalogue Show" at the Kuwait Continental Hotel during Feb 19-20, 1990, between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm.

Catalogues of more than 200 US companies in the oil and gas industry will be displayed. Interested firms are invited to attend.

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Iranian reception

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kuwait Hossein Sadeghi hosted a reception Sunday to mark the 11th anniversary of the victory of Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Picture shows Sadeghi greeting Kuwait's Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sulaiman al-Naimi. Majid Al Shahrani while Mehdi Abedi, third secretary at the Iranian embassy looks on.

Mergers will strengthen banks, says economist

Competition increasing

THE assistant professor of economics at Kuwait University and board member of the Kuwait Contracting, Trading and Foreign Investments Company Dr Adnan Al Sultan has said that the merger of the local financial and banking establishments was an important step on the road to implementing a carefully-studied policy to promote the country's financial standing.

He told a local daily that many positive results were achieved through the merger of financial and banking establishment such as reducing administrative and financial costs optimising the country's financial performance, minimising dependence on expat marginal manpower and reducing long term financial burdens encumbered by the government.

He said that the proposed merger was a must amidst the increasing fast changes on the world financial markets, like deregulation which led to increasing competition among financial and banking establishments. This consequently caused these establishments to seek protection through merger to be better able to withstand growing competition and diversify their services.

He pointed out that it was an urgent requirement for local

establishments to keep abreast of what is happening in the international financial arena and develop the necessary strategies to solidify their standing drawing on the experience of the international establishments. He added that the local establishments by comparison, had small capitals and the local market was labouring under strong competition of international establishments and banks.

He said that the local establishments must improve their financial services and polish their professional skills which was possible through the proposed merger that would lead to development of their ability to stand up to foreign competition. Sultan said that the banking and financial sector was currently suffering from a severe crisis that undermined its powerful operation, and therefore it required intensive efforts to regain its power and be able to face world challenges.

Services

He pointed out that the proposed merger would create financial and banking entities with huge financial abilities that would enable them to raise their competitive operations and

provide upgraded comprehensive services.

He commented on the legal aspects of the proposed merger as likely to cause difficulty, adding that the only way to steer clear of these potential difficulties was through tying the local establishments' role to the main governments' establishments and assigning them more tasks within the framework of the government's investment strategy.

He said that the merger of the bank into a financial investment company would increase the expected benefit of the whole project, as the local banks had a great stake of clients, while the investment companies possessed the expertise and the right contacts with foreign markets and a merger like this would lead to profitable and integrated commercial business.

He stressed the element of gradual transformation into the merged entity, adding that it was always advisable to start out with one experimental case involving the merger of two establishments which would be studied in the light of the results and consequently influence the decision towards the continuation of the overall merger and integration process.

Increasing demand for imported medicines

DEMANDS on medicines by the Health Ministry's laboratories at the health centres, specially for imported drugs is increasing, resulting in that quantities imported frequently meet demands of hospitals for only two weeks, according to Iqbal Abdulla, head of pharmacological services office at Hawalli Health Area.

She added that if medicines prescribed by physicians to patients are not available at the pharmacies, the pharmacist returns the prescription to the physicians to prescribe a substitute.

However, she disclosed that occasionally, pharmacies at hospitals do suffer from shortages in certain types of medicines which she attributed to the rationalisation of expenditure in relation to pharmaceutical drugs.

Elucidating, she said that shortages are experienced in those drugs which are imported and not due to a lack of local manufacture. Patients cannot obtain certain medicines without a prescription. Should a patient desire to have a certain medicine that is not available in the pharmacies, the authorities will import these requirements under prescription, the official said.

She added that the ministry ensures strict supervision of pharmacies in relation to a validity of medicines, conducts annual stocktaking and draws up annual budgets for providing different clinics and wards of hospitals with all requirements needed for surgeries and medicines.

Commenting on the work environment of pharmacies, she said that they do face pressure and have to bear serious responsibility in dispensing medicines as they process about 1,500 prescriptions per day. Accounting even for very small pills is a tiring exercise, she said and added that pharmacists should be given similar privileges and allowances as doctors.

A pharmacist, Dr Ibrahim Mirwalli pointed out that pharmacists perform their duties honestly and diligently by explaining to each patient the mode and timings of taking their respective medicines. Medicines come to pharmacies in large quantities and pharmacists are required to classify and put them in order in shelves.

He commented that the ministry deals with pharmacists as people who distribute drugs to patients only - which is a wrong understanding. He added that pharmacists should be equated with dentists, as the former study for the same period of time at universities as the latter.

Another pharmacist, Iteidal Salah said that pharmacist face some problems in dealing with patients who refuse to accept medicines which last for a week - they demand a quota to last for a month. Patients should understand that the medicine that has been prescribed by the doctor is for a limited period to see the effects, the pharmacist said.

Hello charge

A DECISION is expected to be issued by the Ministry of Communications within the coming few days rescinding the charge collected from telephone subscribers for reconnection services which had been disconnected for non-payment of bills, a local daily said.

As at present, these subscribers have to pay KDS for reconnection of disconnected phones.

Aids may pose danger to development: Awadi

Third international conference opens

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

TWO HUNDRED thousand people around the world suffer from Aids today, and the number of those infected with the virus is estimated at five to ten million. In the year 2000, this number will jump to 18 million, said Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

The minister of planning and acting minister of public health was speaking at the Third International Conference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) which opened yesterday under the auspices of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

He said that the conference is one of Kuwait's contributions to the increasing attention the world is giving to this disease that is killing more people every day. "It hits people from 18 to 40 years old, the productive people of any society," he stated explaining that the disease could thus affect the country's economic and development plans.

The minister said that costs of Aids-related tests and treatment can also become a tremendous weight on any country's budget and affect its people's standard of living.

Dr Jonathan Mann, director of the World Health Organisation's Global Programme on Aids, said in a keynote address that it is essential to look back at what has been done to fight Aids and learn from it before we look forward. He stated that between the years 1985 and 1989, the global response to the disease was unprecedented in speed and scope. Mann enumerated some of the positive and negative aspects of this experience.

"For the first time in history, we have a global strategy to fight a disease," Mann said adding that this strategy was approved by the United Nations' General Assembly. "We have seen in the past few years that global strategies can work. We have seen that these strategies can help



people change their behaviour and reduce the risk of Aids."

Rapid scientific mobilisation against the disease is another positive aspect of the experience, said Mann. Also, the close linkage between human dignity and fighting Aids was also proven. According to Mann, programmes that do not take human dignity and human rights into consideration are not successful.

The rise of global solidarity against Aids is another plus for humanity, stated Mann adding that such a disease cannot be considered a national problem. "There are very few diseases in the world people know as much about as they do about Aids," he said.

The negative side of the Aids experience is that the epidemic is gaining momentum. "One out of 400 people in the world today is infected with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)," said the international expert. "A 10-fold increase, was recorded among blood donors in some areas in India. In the Soviet city of Elista 100 children are infected because of poor hygiene in hospitals. And in Romania 500 children have been infected because of blood transfusion."

The number of people who are vulnerable to the disease continues to grow, stated Mann adding that the most frightening of these are the 5 million intra-venous drug users.

Also, a number of certain barriers to a more effective fight against Aids have not been overcome in many societies. Accord-

ing to Mann, one of the most important barriers is the big distance between sexual myth and sexual reality.

"There is a world-wide resistance when it comes to learning facts about our sexual behaviour. Aids is virus and sexual reality. Today we know more about virus than we do about the behaviour," he said.

Another barrier is lack of commitment on the part of some countries for dealing with underlying issues such as drugs and educating young people about human sexuality.

Complacency is another barrier. "Some still deny the problem. They believe that Aids will not become their problem or touch anybody they love."

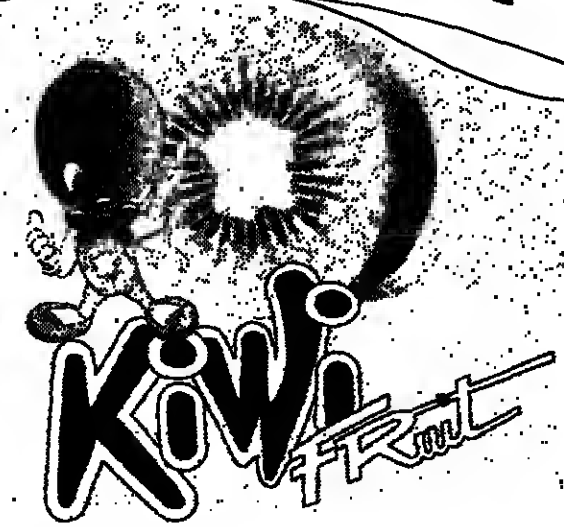
The high cost of drugs used to treat Aids patients is also prohibitive. Mann said that the cost of AZT treatment is less today not because of a reduction in its price but because of reduced doses given to patients.

Dr Hussain Geziray, Regional Director of the World Health Organisation, said in an address given on his behalf by Dr Mohamed Wahdan that the issue of providing treatment and medicine for Aids patients in poor countries is essential. "Who can pay thousands of dollars annually for a drug... I do not believe that the latest drugs could be considered successful unless these drugs could become available to all those who need it," he said.

Dr Kazem Behbehani, chairman of the conference's organising committee, said that everybody is aware that Aids will remain among the world's major disease problems for the foreseeable future. "With the resolution of Aids crisis still uncertain, we are at least fortunate to understand enough about its transmission to take defensive measures to protect the public," he said adding that Kuwait began taking measures against the spread of the disease soon after its insidious nature was known.

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SOPEXA



Peace bids heading toward failure: Arafat

'PLO has other options'

BAGHDAD, Feb 12, (Agencies): Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday Mideast peace efforts were heading towards failure despite Palestinian flexibility, and warned that the PLO might resort to other options to achieve its goals.

"We are close to a dead end, but we have other options... and we hope that nobody will blame us if we take other steps," Arafat told a news conference at his headquarters in the Iraqi capital.

The PLO chairman arrived in Baghdad on Saturday for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and top Iraqi officials on the latest developments in the Middle East.

Arafat did not provide details on the measures the PLO might take should ongoing Mideast peace efforts collapse.

But he recalled that the executive committee of the PLO — the PLO's top policy-making body — had discussed alternative measures during a recent meeting in Tunis.

He pointed out that any new measures would have to be ratified by the Palestinian National Council (PNC), which acts as the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

The PNC at its last meeting held in Algiers in Nov 1988 adopted a series of major resolutions to pave the way for a settlement in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the declaration of an independent Palestinian state and the acceptance of UN resolutions calling for two states — one Arab and one Jewish.

Arafat said the PNC could be called to a meeting within six months to discuss peace efforts and ratify new steps.

"The peaceful efforts aimed at solving the Palestinian problem have approached a deadlock, despite the flexibility offered by the PLO over the last year," Arafat said.

Arafat held Israel and the United States responsible for the current deadlock in the Middle East. "This is a natural result of the complete collaboration between the Israeli government and some parties in the US administration, which I consider to be (former US secretary of state Henry) Kissinger students," Arafat added.

The PLO chief accused Israel of shooting Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip during the past few days in revenge for the attack on a bus carrying Israeli tourists in Egypt last week.

He condemned what he called US claims that Washington was neutral in carrying out mediation efforts between the Israelis and Palestinians.

"It is regrettable that the (US administration) accuses Palestinians and holds them responsible for the Israeli tourist bus in Egypt last week, without providing evidence, because logic says no accusation could be made without the existence of an accused," Arafat said.

"If what happened (to) the bus

would be considered as a terrorist act against civilians, then what could we term the action taken by the Israeli Army against civilians in Rafah for the past four consecutive days. Isn't that premeditated state terrorism," Arafat questioned.

Arafat said the the recent influx of Soviet Jews to Israel was made possible because of a Soviet-American understanding between US President George Bush and his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev at their December summit in Malta.

"It is regrettable to say that this part of the accord was made in Malta after President Bush insisted that the Soviets open a direct route to Israel," he said.

Arafat said an Arab League delegation will visit Moscow later this month to ask the Kremlin to halt the exodus.

Arafat declined to say if the Soviet Union promised to take any step about the influx during talks between a Soviet envoy and PLO leaders in Tunis last week, but he said the PLO has ongoing contacts with Moscow.

PLO endorses US plan: report

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 12, (AP): The PLO has secretly endorsed a US plan calling for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, a major Israeli daily claimed yesterday.

The PLO's reversal of its opposition to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan came in agreement to proposals by US Secretary of State James Baker aimed at setting up the elections, the Haaretz newspaper disclosed.

A text of the agreement was placed on Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' desk last week, the newspaper said.

It said accord was reached on three key points: names of Palestinian delegates to a preliminary meeting with Israelis in Cairo, the agenda for those talks, and the method

for announcing the delegates' names. No further details were given.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman denied knowledge of the document, saying, "we are not aware of any such report on his (Arens') desk."

Israel television said two senior Baker aides are to leave for Cairo today to prepare a meeting of Israeli, US and Egyptian foreign ministers as the first step towards the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Shamir's top aide Yossi Ben Aharon said he was not aware of the plans to hold such a meeting in Cairo as well, but confirmed that Arens is due to meet with Baker in the next few days.

US and Israeli sources confirmed reports of the meeting but said that the

date is yet unspecified according to the television, monitored by Amman last night.

The sources, however, expected the meeting, which is hoped to set the stage for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, to be held next week.

Sources in Cairo have said Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmail Abdel Meguid will put forward several proposals formed in co-ordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Earlier, sources of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry have made it clear that Egypt and the PLO have agreed on a common stand supportive of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian

boy in the Gaza Strip today, residents said, the sixth Arab they have killed in the occupied territories in a week.

Four of the deaths were in the Gaza Strip, where troops have also wounded more than 130 Palestinians during a week of clashes concentrated in the southern town of Rafah and adjacent refugee camps.

Palestinians said Husam Jihad Al Zaim, 15, of Gaza City, was playing marbles in the street when soldiers opened fire on stone-throwers behind nearby barricades.

The boy died at an Israeli hospital in Tel Aviv hours after being admitted with head wounds. Military sources confirmed the death and said the army was checking the circumstances.

Turkey releases river water

ANKARA, Feb 12, (Reuters): Turkey was opening the floodgates of the massive Ataturk Dam today to release a vital flow of water to Syria and Iraq after a month's cut-off which dismayed its neighbours.

Ankara diverted the Euphrates River to fill a new dam and rejected requests from Damascus and Baghdad to reduce the cut-off time, saying 30 days was essential. In that time the dam lake has grown from 600 million cubic metres to three billion, forming Turkey's third largest lake covering 177 sq km (315 sq miles), Public Works Ministry officials said.

The Ataturk Dam, largest in a project including 22 dams and planned to be the world's ninth biggest, will begin producing power from the first of eight 300,000-kilowatt turbines by mid-1991.

Two weeks after the cut-off, a Syrian Irrigation Ministry official said the diversion had cost farmers their winter crops, only one of eight hydro-electric turbines at the Euphrates dam was working — causing electricity rationing and power cuts — and drinking water was rationed in big residential complexes.

Turkey said last week the diversion would be cut off at the end of the month.

Syria and Iraq will also benefit from the Ataturk Dam in the long run, Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sancar told Reuters. "They have known that the water would be cut from the day we began building the dam."

"In earlier years of drought we released additional waters to Syria and Iraq from the reservoirs of the Karakaya and Keban dams... Syria and Iraq objected to their construction as well," Sancar said.

Ankara rejected Arab concerns it might use the Euphrates to threaten Syria and Iraq who it says do not do enough to stop separatist rebel Kurds infiltrating Turkey.

"We will never use water from the rivers as a means of threat. I want everybody to know this," President Turgut Ozal said when he formally diverted the waters on January 13.

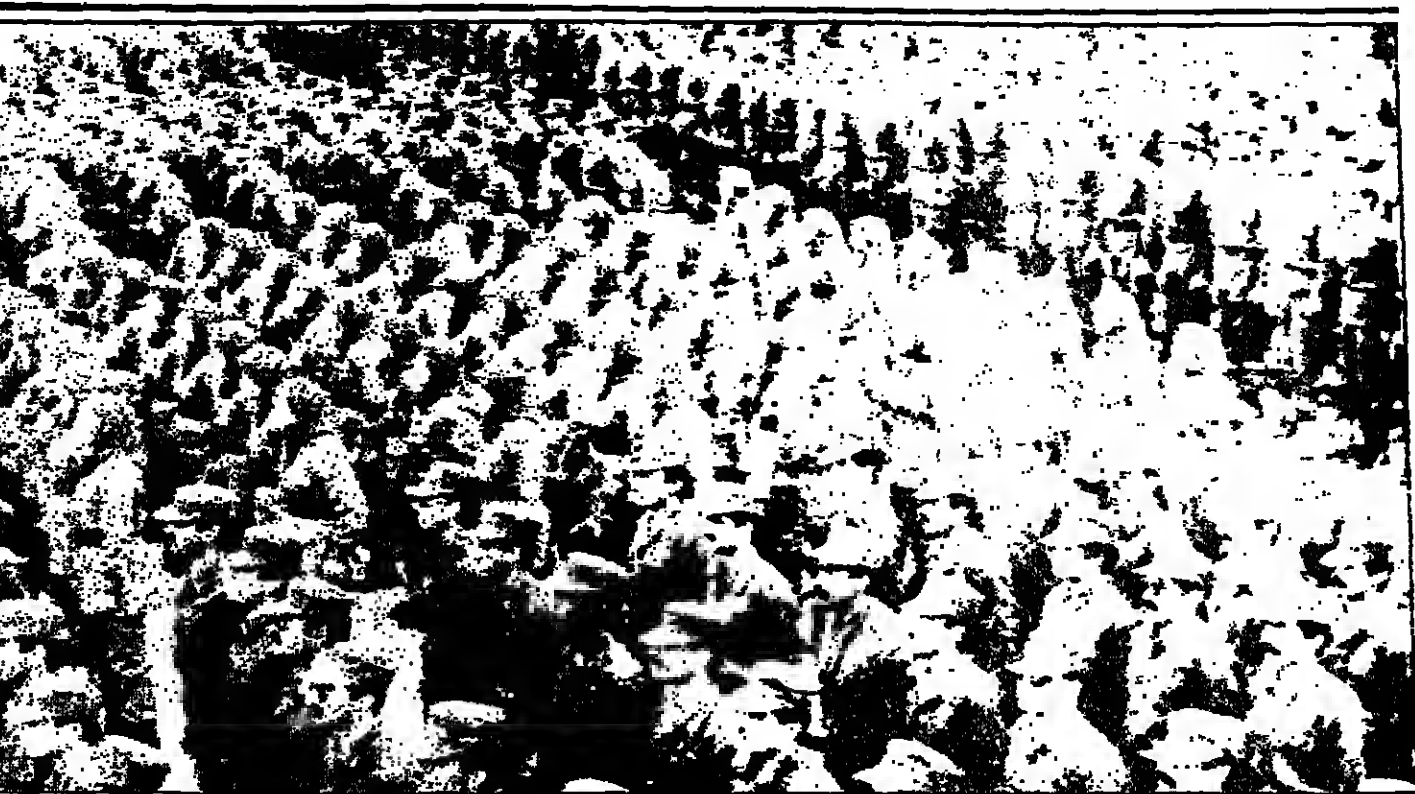
The Arab League asked Turkey in January to shorten the diversion time, calling it "detrimental to the two countries, Syria and Iraq, which have inalienable historic rights to the water of the river under international law."

Turkey said it increased the flow of water to Syria and those had met its commitment under a 1987 protocol.

Tehran repairs crippled frigate

NICOSIA, Feb 12, (Reuters): Iran has repaired and launched a frigate crippled in its biggest naval battle with the United States 22 months ago, Iranian television reported.

It said Iranian navy experts had spent 300,000 man-hours to repair the frigate Sabalan, hit by a laser-guided bomb from a US plane on April 18, 1988.



NLA military rally

Thousands of combatants of the National Liberation Army of Iran stage a military rally to mark the eighth anniversary of the death of an Iranian resistance heroine. (Reuters wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Animal goes crazy Bull kills vet

ASIYUT, Feb 12, (UPI): An angry bull gored to death yesterday a veterinary surgeon about to administer an injection into the animal, said police in Asiyut, some 200 miles (300 km) south of Cairo.

"The bull just went crazy and gored the vet in the head," a police spokesman said. The animal was later destroyed.

"The animal went into a fit... we don't know why," the spokesman said. The dead vet was named as Mohsen Khalil, 30.

The bull was used as a stud on a dairy farm.

Activists protest: Soviet activists have demanded that the Interior Ministry drop its refusal to register Soviet immigrants who cannot prove their Jewish identity, Iraqi Radio reported on Monday.

Immigrants complained in both radio and newspaper interviews that they were asked by the Interior Ministry, which is controlled by the ultra-orthodox Shas Party, to produce birth certificates or other documents proving they are Jewish. (AP)

Minister cancels visit: Israel's immigration minister cancelled a visit to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank fearing it would create new opposition to the influx of Soviet Jews.

Rabbi Yitzhak Perez planned to meet recent immigrants in three West Bank Jewish settlements, including newcomers from the Soviet Union.

"He doesn't want to fuel criticism over Soviet Jewish migration," an official at the ministry told Reuters. (Reuters)

Kelly in Baghdad: Assistant US Secretary of State John Kelly had talks on Monday with President Saddam Hussein on bilateral relations and Middle East developments, the Iraqi News Agency reported. (Reuters)

Algeria's bosses go on strike protesting bureaucracy

ORAN, Algeria, Feb 12, (Reuters): Thousands of company bosses went on strike in western Algeria today, shutting offices and factories and sending workers home for a third day in a massive protest at state bureaucracy.

Virtually all the region's 7,000 private firms and factories employing tens of thousands of workers closed, in anger at mismanagement of state monopolies, Ahmed Bensadoun, President of Oran's Chamber of

Commerce said.

Bensadoun told Reuters most companies shut their doors on Saturday and had kept workers away and machinery idle since then. Shops in Oran, Algeria's second largest city, and in towns in 11 surrounding provinces pulled down shutters in a two-day sympathy strike, reopening today.

According to the private firms, the bureaucrats are blocking economic reforms designed to end state trading monopolies

and encourage competition.

Private factories, like those run by the state, operate well below capacity because of shortages of raw materials and spare parts and Bensadoun blamed mismanagement in state trading monopolies and the country's hard currency crisis, which curbs non-essential imports.

The private sector had to buy through the state, often on uncompetitive terms, even though monopolies were no longer supposed to exist, he said.

"We are demanding direct access to optional and international suppliers for all sectors," Bensadoun said.

Western Algeria is a stronghold of the private sector, long overshadowed by socialist central planning adopted in the 1960s.

President Chadli Benjedid launched reforms in the mid-1980s to spur public sector productivity, introducing competition, market mechanisms and management autonomy.



Alghan government troops manning a position along Salang highway. (Reuters wirephoto)

Geagea and Soviets seek hard nut to crack UN meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

which has 30,000 reservists, is proving to be a hard nut to crack for Aoun's 19,000 troops in the blood-soaked intra-Christian fighting in the 15-year-old civil war.

Neither side has made any significant territorial gains since Aoun's troops captured Geagea's major base in the coastal town of Dbaye on Beirut's northern fringe nine days ago.

Police said Aoun's army was concentrating on a key force in the heavily mountainous province of Nabatieh, a Maronite region 15 miles (24 kilometres) northeast of Beirut.

His tanks stabbed into a militia-held triangle formed by the resort towns of Darayya, Kfayat and Ajloun, below the old slopes in the Kesrouan mountains, police reported.

A spokesman said the hit-and-run mountain attacks appeared to be softening up Lebanese Forces defences before a large-scale assault to break a militia siege of the army's main helicopter base at Adma and take the whole of Kesrouan.

That would enable Aoun to encircle the port of Jounieh, the second largest city in the enclave after East Beirut. Jounieh, 12 miles (20 km) north of the capital, is the Lebanese Forces main power base and harbour.

The snipers' shot a woman running ahead of me," said Tharaya Yakhoub after she sprinted 500 yards (metres) across the Museum Crossing.

(Continued from Page 1)

their states. They have no restrictions on immigration and emigration, and we will have none," Vorontsov added.

Vorontsov said no Arab country had threatened retaliation against the Soviet Union for allowing Jews to leave for Israel. "The Arab states understand now complicated this question is," he added.

"There are no simple solutions to such problems and the Arab countries are not asking the Soviet Union to take prohibitive measures."

"The Arab countries understand that the root of the problem lies in the actions of Israel and that world public opinion must be focused on having Israel halt its illegal actions," Vorontsov declared.

In Tel Aviv, a meeting of the leaders of Shamir's Likud broke down in chaos today after Shamir demanded a vote on his peace initiative for Palestinian elections.

Shamir walked out of the meeting of Likud's central committee after getting into a shouting match with Sharon, the prime minister's chief Likud rival who moments before announced his resignation to protest government policies.

After Sharon's surprise announcement, Shamir reiterated his own hard-line positions and called for a vote on his peace plan, but he was interrupted by Sharon just as some delegates started to raise their hands in support of the prime minister.

Sharon shouted into a microphone, "who is for crushing terror

should lift their hands."

The prime minister then tried to regain control, shouting "who is against my proposal? ... friends, friends..."

But he was again interrupted by Sharon and shouted down by the trade minister's supporters, who chanted Sharon's nickname, "Arik."

But moments later, Shamir said in an interview with Israel's army radio that he won "a massive, decisive majority" for his peace plan and that Sharon had no authority to resign.

Sharon announced his resignation at the start of the session in which he and other hardline rivals challenged Shamir's plan for elections as a first step toward peace.

"I decided to resign from the government to continue my struggle for reaching our national objectives which are now endangered as a result of the government's policy," he said.

"I will continue my struggle as a Jew and a member of Parliament."

As Sharon spoke, the more than 2,000 delegates to the Likud's central committee meeting rose and several hundred began chanting "Arik, Arik."

Shamir, who spoke after Sharon, received scattered boos as he began his speech by saying he would consider the trade minister's offer to resign within the 48-hour period normal in such cases.

"Sharon has surprised me with the announcement of his resignation," he said "after I receive his letter, which I have not yet received, I will give him an answer."

Cairo charges PLO of cover up

CAIRO, Feb 12, (AP): President Hosni Mubarak's ruling party organ today accused the Palestine Liberation Organisation of covering up killers of nine Israeli tourists in Egypt.

The accusation was made in a front page editorial in response to a statement last week by the PLO Cairo representative, Saeed Kamal, in which he said that he could not rule out the possibility of "Israeli responsibility" for the attack Feb 4 on an Israeli bus.

Two gunmen, Egyptian newspapers say were Palestinians, ambushed a bus carrying 31 Israeli vacationers on a desert road between Cairo and the Suez Canal City of Ismailiya. 20 Israelis and one Egyptian were wounded in the attack.

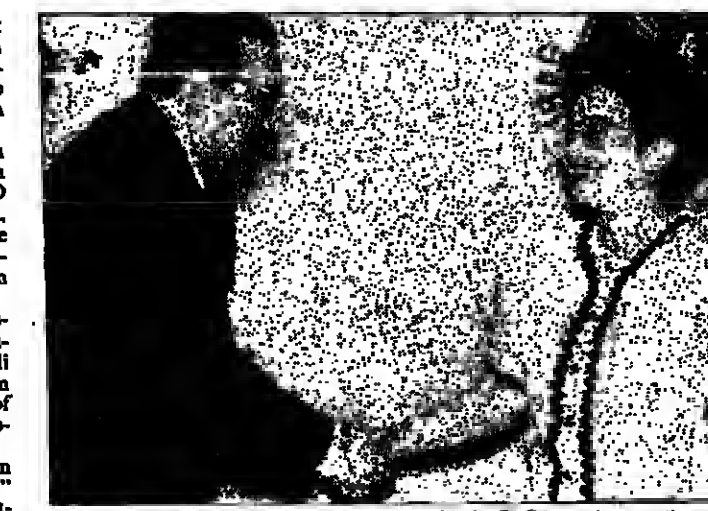
"We do not know how Abu Azzam hid his face and tongue..." An unsigned editorial, believed written by Anis Mansour, a close confidant of Mubarak and editor of weekly Mayo, the mouthpiece of the National Democratic Party, said

The criticism signalled strains in relations between Egypt and the PLO, hampering current US efforts to arrange Palestinian-Israeli peace talks in which Egypt is acting as a middleman.

Egypt also for the first time branded Ahmed Jibril, the Syria-based Palestinian leader of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, as a "terrorist." Jibril's organisation was one of three groups that claimed responsibility for the Feb 4 attack, which left nine Israelis dead and 16 other people wounded.

Although Egypt's interior minister denied Israeli investigators were helping Cairo find the gunmen, diplomats said the arrival of a team of Israeli experts in Egypt to help with the investigation was a further indication of growing Egyptian-Israeli anti-terrorist co-operation.

Gunmen who attacked the bus last week, abused Egyptians riding in the vehicle but spared their lives, an Egyptian survivor was quoted as saying yesterday.



The Philippines has signed an agreement with the PLO to exchange diplomatic missions soon, a PLO official said on Monday.

Abdul Latif Abu Hajleh, director-general of the PLO's political department, made the announcement at the presidential palace after meeting President Corason Aquino.

The PLO will set up an embassy in Manila soon, Abu Hajleh said.

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Najib survives one year without Soviet troops

ISLAMABAD, Feb 12, (UPI): The last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan almost a year ago, prompting Western predictions that US-backed rebels would soon march into Kabul and dispose of the communist regime.

But as the first anniversary of the pullout approaches, the government of President Najibullah remains in power thanks to massive military assistance from Moscow, rebel setbacks on the battlefield and the inability of the Pakistan-based resistance to form a coherent alternative.

Najibullah's growing strength and stature has forced Washington to revise its policies toward Afghanistan and look to a political settlement with Moscow rather than a military solution to the 11-year-old civil war, analysts say.

"The superpowers have decided to remove the 'Afghan irritant' from their mutual relationship and concentrate on resolving the

problems of Eastern Europe," said one Pakistani analyst.

Moscow completed the nine-month withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan on Feb 15, 1989, ending a nine-year occupation of the country it invaded to support the communist government against Muslim insurgents.

The United States and other Western nations closed their embassies in Kabul, anticipating the rebels would soon overrun the city. They hoped the resistance would then be in a position to form a government, the war would end and the more than three million refugees in Pakistan would stream back across the border.

But Soviet troops had left behind them powerful defenses in all the major cities. At the same time, a strategic pullback of troops from undefendable garrisons enabled the regime to concentrate its forces in the urban centres.

The mujahedeen, found themselves unable to make the transition to staging conventional military assaults against a well-entrenched enemy.

A mujahadeen operation launched in March to capture the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad, where the resistance hoped to base an alternative government, dissolved into a bloody defeat several weeks later after expected mass desertions from the conscripted Afghan army failed to materialize.

Moscow also continued to provide military assistance to Kabul under a "positive symmetry" arrangement with the United States, under which Washington would continue to aid the rebels.

But Soviet supplies to its ally far outweighed those received by the rebels from the United States, which reportedly cut back on weapons deliveries to the resistance for several months last year.



Japanese ambassador hosts reception

The Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait, Tsuyoshi Kurokawa held a reception last Wednesday night at his residence on the occasion of the departure of the consultant S. Shara who spent three years in Kuwait. S. Shara was replaced by Sheiroutha and the party was to introduce him to the community. A number of diplomatic personalities in Kuwait attended the party in addition to some Kuwaiti personalities and a number of members from the Japanese community in Kuwait.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shua'a Min Al Madhi: Arabic serial (part 4)
11.30 Sabah Al Kher, news
11.45 Challenges: foreign cultural programme (part 7)
12.25 News summary
12.30 Sabah Al Kher final
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: cartoon serial
5.15 The world of tomorrow: cultural serial
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: historical serial
6.45 Varieties
8.00 Made in Kuwait: local information programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ali Al Damkhi
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Ahlam Sagheer: local serial (part 5)
10.45 Al Burkan: weekly Arabic serial (part 9) starring: Rasheed Assaf, Fadya Khatab and Waha Al Raheb
12.35 News summary
12.40 The World Today via Satellite
1.00 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

6.10 Diplodoc. A cartoon series for children.
6.30 Dartmoor. "Winter." Pt. 2. Life becomes more difficult as snow continues falling and soil freezes.
7.00 Peaceable Kingdom. "Jaguar". When Langley's ex-fiancee wants one of the zoo's leopards for her African breeding programme romance is rekindled...
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law. A weekly local informative programme on law and regulations enforced in Kuwait.
8.45 Coming of Age. Paulin et Rouge. Dick and Gennie Edd. Trudie and Edd's brother go to a dancing party where all those present are retired people...
9.15 The Story of Hollywood. "Hollywood Now". The Deerhunter and Apocahypse Now. Out of Africa and Hanna and her sisters. The bold new creativity of an industry with capacity for birth...
10.00 The Twilight Zone. "Memories". A psychiatrist finds herself living her future life while her patient is suffering from living his past life.
10.30 The Silk Route of the Sea. Sri Lanka, a wealthy island: a look at its people and their cultures and traditions... Buddhism the prevailing religion in the country...
11.30 A Man called Hawk. Verdict. Jesse Hawk's cousin seeks the latter's help from an influential man who is accusing Jesse of stealing his wealth.
12.15 News in brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Hobby Centre
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Dar Al Ahsar Al Islamiyyah
14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoyne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

Seminar
The seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Ahsar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2433250.

SOCIAL

Bazaar
KHALIFA School will be holding a bazaar selling home produce at 9 to 12 am on Thursday 15. For further information 5712544.

Valentine's Party
VALENTINE'S Party: Come join the fun. Feb 15 dinner buffet-top Ranks band, door prizes, Cupid's arrow awaiting! For more information call Nina on 5339623 or Kathy on 2523992 (between 6 and 8 pm).

ACT
ACT's production of Thorton Wilder's comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be presented on February 27, 28 and March 1 at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets can be reserved by calling 5725071 or 5731782.

Like a Hurricane!
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

Kuwait Welsh Society
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dinner Thursday 1st March 1990. At Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

One Act Play Rehearsals
Kuwait Players are holding auditions for a selection of one act plays to be staged in April. If you're interested in directing, acting or assisting backstage, do come along to the auditions at 7.30 pm on Monday Feb 12th or Tuesday Feb 13th. Please phone 5615357 for details of venue.

Bits n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Daniella Fastelabn
Daniella celebrates "Fastelabn" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne - Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Winnie - Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Valentine's Day
14 Feb: Valentine's Day Special dinner in Messilah Beach Hotel from 8-12 pm. Live entertainment, complimentary bottle of Bulmagne, a red rose for each lady and free raffle entries. Book your table in advance. Call 5624111.

Konkani drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sousarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felecy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

British Council
Children's film: Wednesday, 14 Feb. at 6.00 pm; Thursday 15 Feb. at 10.30 am. Five Go To Demon's Rock: The Famous Five go treasure hunting after hearing about a legend of hidden gold in the Wrecker's Cave near Demon's Rock. Join them in their exciting adventure in their search for an old gold coin. 44 min. Admission is free but please book seats by calling Tel.: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

Singapore festival
SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent. The oriental extravaganza will present lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel. For reservations, please call 5657000 ext 401 or 403.

British Council
STUDYING, COMPUTING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE IN BRITAIN
Whether you want a short course, a 2-year diploma, a BSc, or a PhD - we have the information you need. Come and visit the Education Office on Monday, 12 February or Tuesday, 13 February and access our computerised database! Our staff will be there to assist you and help find a course to suit you.

Flute recital
PRESENTED by a group of 4 young Austrian artists at the Kuwait International Hotel on 24th February at 8.00 pm. Winners of the first prize at the Youth Musicians' Festival in Austria, they have recorded for the radio and television in Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USSR, Egypt and Austria. In the Terrace Room. Tel: 2530000 ext 8039-8040

Robbie in the lobby
ROBBIE 2002 a remote control robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the main lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances the most successful being the British TV Quiz show 3.2.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. KD1.000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

Carnival Dinner Nite
Carnival dinner nite by the Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Tent) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers on 22nd Feb, 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards. Highlights of the evening: Parade by K-Momo, Crowning of Carnival Queen, Ramba Samba dance competition. Group prizes, and many other surprises. For further details please contact: The Organisers, Chopsticks Chinese takeaway. Tel: 5617243.

Oil and Gas Catalogue Show
THE Commercial Service of the American embassy announces an "Oil and Gas Catalogue Show" at the Kuwait Continental Hotel during Feb 19-20, 1990, between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm. Catalogues of more than 200 US companies in the Oil and Gas industry will be displayed. Interested firms are invited to attend.

Valentine celebrations
BE MY VALENTINE on February 15, 1990 at Sunrise Pinoy Restaurant, Mezzanine Floor, Al Dabbous Bldg. Falaheel.

Sports
Ahmadi Kart racing
THIS Friday sees the 8th round of the Kuwait National Drivers Championship and is sponsored by Avis Car Rental. Racing starts at 1.30 pm and admission is only 500 fils. Snack bar for hot food and drinks. Rentakart available for test drives after the races.

Filipino darts
ALL Filipino darts enthusiasts are again invited for another meeting to be held on Thursday at 6.00 pm, 15 February 1990, at Mabuhay Restaurant to finalise the organisation of a darts tournament. 301 and Killers shall play a Killers game. Last meeting was attended by 21 participants from Alghanim Industries, Mabuhay Restaurant, RIC and SAS Hotel. Mabuhay Restaurant is sponsoring the tournament. For more information contact William Bassig on 4843988 ext 2632.

7-a-side football
VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 2410461 and 4765070.

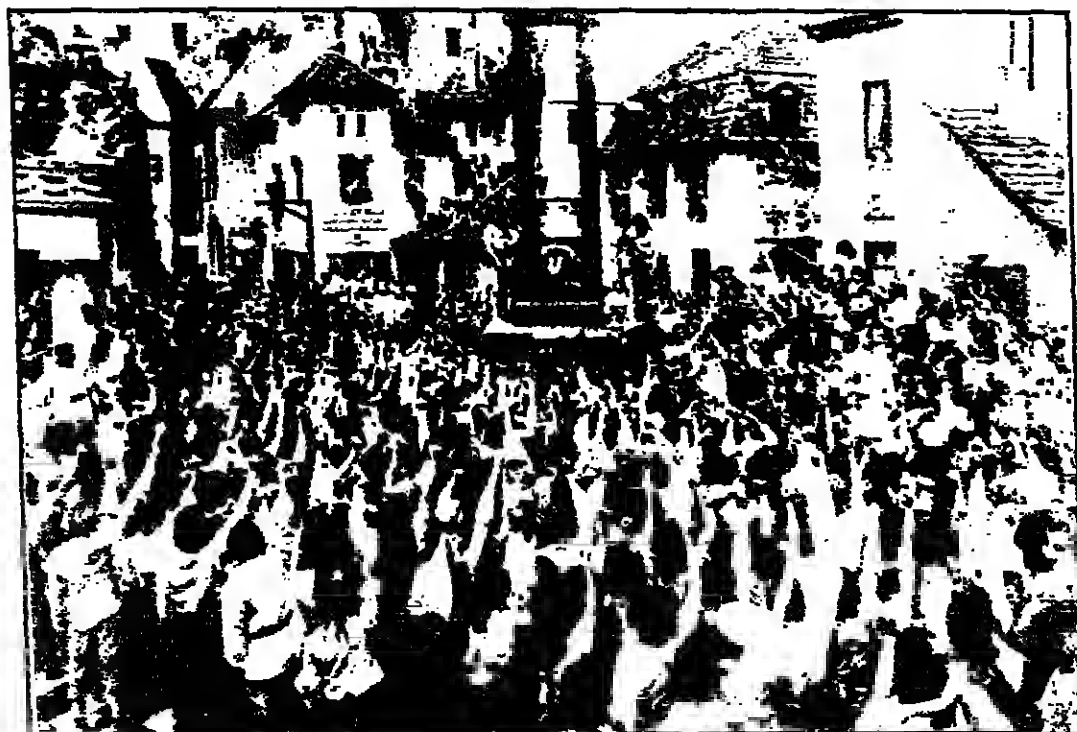
NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Baghdad Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Salem St.
Al Shari Pharmacy
Al Safat Souq
Hawalli and Nuzha
Zaina Pharmacy
Ebin Khaldoun St.
Salmiya and Rumailhiya
Al Feda Pharmacy
Al Khansa Street
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Wafa Pharmacy
Al Dabbous St.
Khaitan
Khaitan Pharmacy
Ibrahim Bin Adham St.
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
The new Market

CINEMA TODAY

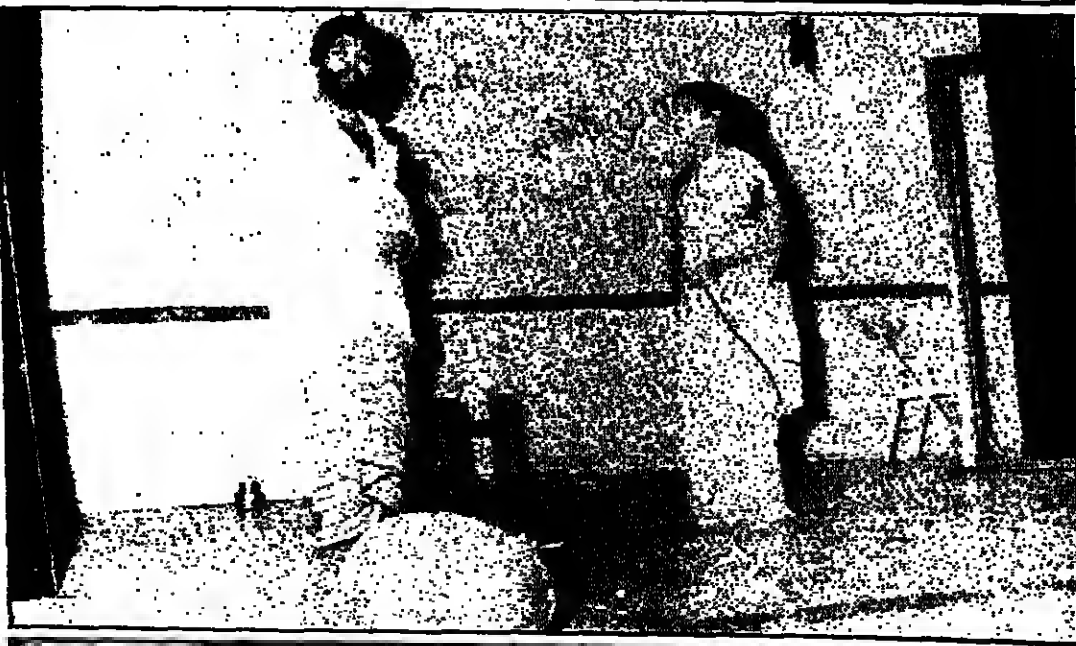
Al Andalus
Batman
Salmiya
Hawalli and Nuzha
Al Hama
Arabic film
Drive-in
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Al Firdous
Kanoon Apna Apna
Fahsheel
The Lost Platoon
Al Jahra
Hoshiyar

Granada
Lal Americayil
Salamkhat
Challenge of Ninja
Jahra
Aadil
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film
PRAYERS
Fajr 5.09 am
Zohr 12.02 pm
Asr 3.12
Maghreb 5.35
Isha 6.53



French Film Festival

July 14 a 1932 production will be screened today at 7.30 pm at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium. The film is directed by Rene Clair and is starring Annabella and George Rigaud.



Kalpak's One Act Play Competition

A One Act Play Competition was organised by Kalpak at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium on Friday, February 9, 1990. Four competitors on the stage were Narmada Theatras (Mazhamahangal Gathi Ashok Kumar) Drusya Kala (Good Night - directed by Jayachandran) L.A.C. (Perumthachan - directed by Kumar). Above picture shows scenes from Mazhamahangal Gathi Mariappol (when clouds changed the direction) and Kothu (mosquito)

Arabic Literature

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Chancellor to dictate terms for monetary union

Kohl riding high after historic talks in Moscow

BONN, Feb 12, (Reuters): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, riding high after historic talks in Moscow, is in a strong position to dictate terms for monetary union with East Germany when Prime Minister Hans Modrow flies to Bonn tomorrow.

But the mechanics of a deal which would lead to the powerful West German mark replacing the East German currency as a first step to political reunification remain vague and are surrounded by growing controversy on both sides of the border.

The major problem is that the economically soundest course of action for Bonn will not do enough to help East Berlin and would fail to halt the exodus of more than 2,000 East Germans a day that overshadows any planning either side can make.

Economists say the parous state of the East German economy leaves Modrow holding virtually no cards despite protestations that his country is not up for sale.

Kohl, however, has a strong hand after receiving Kremlin

leader Mikhail Gorbachev's blessing at the weekend to decide on the pace and form of German reunification.

Kohl called Saturday's meeting in Moscow a historic day and his government now shows every sign of laying down the law when Modrow enters into two days of talks in Bonn. Conditions will include an end to Socialist central planning and frank disclosure of economic data once regarded as a state secret.

"Negotiations on monetary union can go only ahead successfully if the East German government opens up the books," Matthias Wissmann, economics spokesman for Kohl's ruling conservative alliance, said in a statement today.

"West Germany can only take on the risks associated with monetary union if it knows the exact condition of the East German economy."

Friedrich Bohl, another leading coalition politician, was just as forthright, saying: "The condition for monetary union is economic reform. The East German leadership must not hamper

or put the brakes on this development."

The hectic pace of events, leading to Kohl's decision last Wednesday to offer Modrow talks on monetary union, has sparked worries in both nations about economic consequences.

For West Germany, the priority is to halt the seemingly inexorable decline of the West German economy which led last week to open discussions of the state's possible insolvency.

Bonn hopes the prospect of economic support will slow the exodus of citizens to West Germany and head off social tensions which would undermine Kohl's chances in December's elections.

For the East German leadership, desperately trying to hold the nation together ahead of March 18 elections, monetary union looks like the one way to restore confidence in its mark, worth just one seventh of the West German mark on the black market.

But West Germans are worried they will end up paying the bill through higher taxes and dearer interest rates. And East

Germans fear their life savings will be devalued if changed into West German marks at any rate other than one-to-one.

The carefully formulated plans of West Germany's Central Bank, the Bundesbank, and Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann, filling pages of the press just seven days ago, have been completely overtaken by events.

In an ideal world, those plans would have attempted to bring industry in East Germany, where productivity is only half that of West Germany, up to standards in an orderly fashion.

But economists say the Bonn government now believes it has no choice but to opt for wholesale change, agreeing a date for the East German mark to be replaced by the West German currency.

"As such, economists say the term 'monetary union' is not strictly correct. It is rather, in the words last week of the Bundesbank's pragmatic President Karl Otto Poehl, the creation of a unified economic and monetary zone."

But how it will work is far from clear, even in Bonn.

Economists say that politically Bonn will have to offer a one-for-one exchange rate for at least part of East German citizens' marks. But transfer at that rate of their entire savings accounts could prove highly inflationary.

The total figure of about 160 to 170 billion marks (\$96 to 102 billion at the West German mark/dollar exchange rate) would make up a relatively small 14 per cent of West Germany's broad-based M-3 money supply. But the release of that cash, as spendable West German marks, could give a strong boost to demand and prompt the Bundesbank to tighten interest rates.

By translating some of that monetary overhang at a devalued rate, the impact in the West would be reduced and East German industry would be given a competitive boost. But a rate of, for example, three-to-one, would also cut wages, pensions and savings by a third at a stroke and — exactly the opposite of Bonn's intentions — could increase the exodus of citizens.



Helmut Kohl

We do not want prices too low: Sheikh Ali

Kuwait seeks to end Opec quotas

NICOSIA, Feb 12, (Agencies): Kuwait's Oil Minister was quoted today as saying Opec's oil output quotas should be scrapped as soon as possible.

"From a practical standpoint they are already irrelevant so all that is needed is a recognition of that fact," Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) in an interview. The 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries last November set an output ceiling of 22.1 million barrels per day (bpd). But oil industry sources estimate total January output at least one million bpd above that level.

Sheikh Ali told MEES Kuwait was producing crude above its Opec quota of 1.5 million bpd but declined to give any figure.

"I think that our obligation to



Sheikh Ali

stay within the quota applies when the price of the Opec basket is below \$18 per barrel," Sheikh Ali said.

"If the price is above \$18 per barrel, I think everyone should

be, and even be encouraged to, producing above quota."

The minister said demand for Opec oil had been very strong and was likely to keep growing faster than predicted, "to the extent that only a few countries (will) have excess production capacity still to be utilised."

Sheikh Ali said Kuwait would never do anything to upset the stability of the market. "We do not want prices too low because even if we can survive with them other Opec countries and oil-producing developing countries may be hurt too much."

Kuwait also opposed too-high prices because that would make its oil harder to sell.

"So we have not hesitated to increase and reduce our production above or below quota when the need arises," the Nicosia-

based newsletter quoted him as saying.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency reported this month that Opec's output in January was 23.3 million barrels a day, well over the overall quota of 22.086 million barrels a day set for the first half of the year.

Several Opec oil ministers said at the Opec's last meeting, in Vienna in November that there would probably be no need for a quota system in the next year or two.

Sheikh Ali told MEES: "The end of quotas should perhaps be faster than that."

Questioning the need for quotas, he asked: "What's the ultimate objective?" "If it's division of quotas in line with fixed percentages, this is a ridiculous exercise."

British consumer spending down

LONDON, Feb 12, (Reuters): British retail sales fell slightly last month but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government is still battling to curb consumer spending and cut inflation, official figures released today showed.

Retail sales fell by 1.3 per cent in January after an unusually big jump of 1.9 per cent in December. Government officials said the two figures suggested an underlying growth in sales.

Spending has been slow to react until now to high interest rates, currently at 15 per cent.

"The government's high interest rate policy is starting to work, but it cannot be relaxed just yet," said Evelyn Brodie, an economist at London brokers Morgan Grenfell Securities.

The Conservative government said investors cashing in windfall profits from the privatisation of Britain's water industry last December may have swelled spending in January.

Economists said manufacturing industry statistics released separately today provided good news for the government.

Prices of fuel and raw materials used in industry fell by a seasonally-adjusted 0.9 per cent in January, showing a year-on-year rise of 3.1 per cent, below market expectations.

Oil imports

SEOUL, Feb 12, (Reuters): South Korea is to resume oil imports from Libya which have been suspended since 1988, state radio said today.

It said South Korea would buy 10,000 to 15,000 barrels of Libyan crude oil daily from this year under an accord reached last week in Tripoli.

De Bono to address the meeting Seminar on lateral thinking

EDWARD de Bono, the widely acclaimed originator of the concept of Lateral Thinking makes his third visit to the UAE in a span of six months. Speaking in Abu Dhabi this time, De Bono will present a two-day management seminar on Lateral Thinking.

In what promises to be a significant event in the 1990 UAE business calendar, De Bono will address top delegates from all over the Gulf at the Abu Dhabi International Hotel on March 12-13, 1990.

The author of over 28 books, De Bono is regarded as the authority on Lateral Thinking. His expertise has been sought by such well known corporations as Exxon, BP, Kuwait Oil, Shell, IBM, Apple, Ciba-Geigy, Citibank, Bank of America, Barclays, General Foods, Procter and Gamble, Unilever, United Technologies, General Motors, Digital, ICI and British Airways.

What makes De Bono, one of the most sought after international management analysts, pay such a great deal of attention to this region with his successive visits? It is his firm belief that implementing the concepts of Lateral Thinking in the dynamic and growing business environment of the Gulf region, will help provide the direction needed to solve major business issues.

To today's hectic world of management, Dr De Bono's original breakthrough concept of Lateral Thinking has produced outstanding results to individuals, institutions, corporations and governments across the world.

Providing innovative solutions will become crucial for the future success of business. In this regard, Dr De Bono poses the vital question: "Where are the future profits of business going to come from?" The profits, De Bono says, will not come from efficiency, productivity and cost efficiency as was emphasised during the last decade. Neither will they come from the over emphasis that is placed on management. The days of conventional "management," according to De Bono, are finished.

Dubai based Winning Communications, a public relations company, is sponsoring the seminar, in association with the McQuig Group from Canada.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 12/2/90			
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
07	Anyangyang	M. Bahar	2401900
12+13	North Sea	Algh Barwil	4845712
14	Ibn Quatibah	KSA	4843150
18	Volosko	M. Bahar	2401900
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
12/02	Sanko Grace	Al Salmiyah	4745471
12/02	Gao Cheng	M. Bahar	2401900
13/02	African Highway	United	2463150
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
02	Aquaris	RSMS	2423642
10	Prosperity	Marafic	2463645
14	Golden Wing	United	2463150
16	Westphalia	Al Kamal	2425437
VSL AT ANCHORAGE			
	South Wind	Algh Frt	4745533
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ships name	Agent	Tel. No.
11/02	Maersk Fiero	M.S. Behbehani	2412065
Compiled by: Alghamdi Barwil Shipping Co. WLL, Tel: 4842298			
4843863 ext. 3628/3646 Fax No. 4845712, TLX 22084 BARWIL KY.			

Compiled by: Alghanim Barwil Shipping Co. WLL, Tel: 4842988/4843988 ext. 3628/3646 Fax No. 4845712, TLX 22084 BARWIL KT.

Drexel to seek merger partner

NEW YORK, Feb 12, (Reuters): Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., the securities firm that fuelled Wall Street's merger mania in the 1980s with its huge junk bond business, said today it would be seeking a merger partner or investor because of financial pressures.

Rumours of trouble at Drexel have circulated since the departure of financial wizard Michael Milken, who was indicted in the US government's broad-ranging insider trading probe and left the firm last June. Milken, who is preparing a defence for a pending court case, has pleaded not guilty.

The government put pressure on Drexel to cut its ties with Milken when Drexel settled insider-trading related charges and paid \$650 million in fines and penalties in late 1989.

Drexel was one of Wall Street's most profitable brokers until the past two years when the high-yielding, speculative debt securities, called junk bonds, fell out of favour.

"The unsettled markets, particularly in the high yield area, have adversely affected the liquidity of our parent corporation, Drexel Burnham Lambert Group, which has consolidated net worth of over \$800 million," Drexel said in a statement explaining its decision to find a partner.

Dollar mixed

LONDON, Feb 12, (UPI): The dollar closed mixed against the major European currencies today. Gold was up.

The dollar closed higher in Zurich at 1.4980 Swiss francs against 1.4945, and also was higher in Paris at 5.7005 French francs against 5.6810 and in Milan at 1.24530 lire against 1.24260.

The dollar closed lower in Frankfurt at 1.6705 German marks against 1.6750 at Friday's close, and also was lower in Brussels at 4.94 Belgian francs against 35.085.

In London, the pound closed higher at \$1.6860 against \$1.6905 at Friday's close.

In Zurich, gold closed higher at \$419.50 per ounce against \$416 per ounce, and also was higher in London at \$419.85 per ounce against \$415.75 per ounce.

Silver closed higher in Zurich at \$5.36 per ounce against \$430 per ounce, and also was higher in London at \$5.30 per ounce against \$5.27 per ounce.

Andean pact nations meet

Energy accords to be reviewed

QUITO, Ecuador, Feb 12, (Reuters): The five Andean pact nations, which between them have half the crude oil reserves in Latin America, today will begin to study implementation of plans for increased energy co-operation, oil industry officials said.

"The idea is to start with programmes for joint exploitation of crudes and interchange of goods and services, to later advance towards co-operation in other energy-related areas," an official spokesman said.

He said the co-operation accords between the countries would lead to sub-regional self-sufficiency in electricity and complementary exploration and exploitation of minerals and alternative energy sources.

Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela have crude reserves of 62 billion barrels, just more than half the total reserves in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to figures from the Latin American Energy Organisation (Olae).

The Andean pact presidents agreed at a summit last December that the energy ministers would meet to initiate systems for Andean integration.

The energy ministers meeting, which begins on Wednesday in Quito, is to be preceded by a technical meeting. Andean businessmen are to hold a congress and an exposition on oil exploration and

exploitation methods.

"The Quito meetings will finalise accords for the countries to interchange petroleum industry goods and services, financed with the sub-region's own funds," the official said.

Among those accords, Colombia and Ecuador are to formalise a joint oil exploitation programme during the meeting, he said.

"The five ministers will analyse complementation projects for the sub-region in engineering and production of capital goods," according to an official statement.

According to Olae, in 1989 the Andean nations extracted 866 million barrels of oil, 38 per cent of the Latin American total exported 471 million barrels, 48 per cent of sales in the region and imported 21.4 million barrels of derivatives, four per cent of Latin American purchases.

The Andean group also generated 109,778 megawatts of electricity last year, 18 per cent of the regional total, and has a daily generation capacity of 32,445 megawatts, 23 per cent of the capacity for Latin America and the Caribbean, according to Olae figures.

In another development, Oman will take advantage of an increase in oil demand this year to raise its output to 640,000 bpd, according to an oil magazine.

Split on how to dismantle cold war hi-tech controls

PARIS, Feb 12, (Reuters): The West's trade watchdog Cocom meets in Paris this week split on how far it should go in dismantling cold war controls on high-technology exports to the East bloc.

On the agenda will be a controversial US proposal to ease the rules on exports to reforming East European countries while maintaining unchanged the old controls on business with Moscow.

Japan is likely to back the US position, but Washington's European allies, led by West Germany, will argue that such a two-tier system would be impossible to police effectively, delegates said.

The Co-ordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom) was set up in 1949 to vet all exports to the East bloc to prevent sophisticated technology being diverted to military ends by communist governments.

Cocom has 17 members, including all countries in the Western military alliance Nato (except Iceland), plus Japan and Australia.

West Germany, firmly backed by France, would like to see special priority given to easing controls on certain sectors which are considered essential to rebuilding the East's shattered economies, these are:

■ Machine tools, used in factories for precision engineering.

■ Telecommunications equipment, to update antiquated telephone networks.

■ Computers, to streamline the unwieldy bureaucracies which act as a brake on all decision-making to the former centrally-planned economies.

One delegate said the French were keen to see civil aviation added to the list to help boost sales of Airbus

Industrie airliners which are made by a consortium of four European companies and assembled in Toulouse, southern France.

Since Cocom's last high-level meeting here in October, communist parties in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have loosened their monopoly on power.

"Last October we were thinking in terms of special treatment just for Poland and Hungary. Now it is all of Eastern Europe," a European diplomat said.

Despite the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and the accelerating pace of disarmament, no Cocom members have yet suggested doing away with the committee.

So long as the Warsaw Pact and Nato exist, all the allies accept the need for some control to maintain the West's technological advance, delegates said.

Washington which has traditionally taken the most hardline stance within Cocom, announced last month that it would agree to ease export restrictions to those East European governments that were on the road to reform.

"The US will propose that East European cases be processed in under eight weeks compared with 12 at present," one delegate said. "But most countries want to see it cut to six weeks for both the Soviet Union and East Europe."

The United States will also argue against its allies that tight controls should be kept on the remaining hard-line communist states — North Korea, Albania, Cuba and Vietnam.

But the Europeans maintain it would be too costly to enforce special restrictions on such countries of such marginal economic importance.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb 12, (Reuters): The market closed lower on concern about the high debt of several companies. The All Ordinaries index fell 7.2 to 1,623.5.

TOKYO: Closed for holiday.

HONG KONG: Prices were slightly firmer at the close after selective buying. The Hang Seng index rose 0.76 to 2,896.66.

SINGAPORE: The market closed firmer in moderate trading on selective buying of locally-based blue chips and finance stocks. Heavily gains in some stocks pushed the Straits Times index to a closing record high of 1,593.77, up 12.25.

BOMBAY: Share prices rebounded from a two-week slide to finish broadly higher on hectic short covering anticipating a revival in institutional demand.

FRANKFURT: Shares fell sharply in moderate trade amid continuing worries about the bond market but scattered by orders helped prices recover from mid-session lows. The Dax plunged 25.50 to 1,860.39.

ZURICH: Swiss shares closed generally lower but above their day's lows in very dull trading. Investors stayed away because of high interest rates. The PSI index lost 6.9 to 1,190.2.

PARIS: Prices posted steep falls on concern about the costs of withdrawal of US stocks by Parrier after benzene was found in its bottles.

NEW YORK: Rumours of problems at a major US brokerage house and futures-related sell programme pushed stocks down. By 1625 the Dow was 20 points down at 2,626.

EXPIRED



Born: 25-04-1938
Jochim William Alphonso (Jokke Appaso) from Pullimmar-Mulla, Mangalore, expired on 11-02-1990, due to sudden illness. Body will be flown to Mangalore for funeral.

Inserted by his loving brother Francis Alphonso & family.



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Perrier shares go flat

PARIS, Feb 12. (Reuters): Shares in Perrier dropped sharply today after a health scare in the United States forced the firm to withdraw bottles of the mineral water contaminated by a chemical used in dry-cleaning fluid.

The company said the operation would cost it less than 200 million francs (\$35 million), and it was confident its spring in southern France was still as pure as ever.

Trading in Perrier on the Paris bourse had to be suspended temporarily at the start of the week's opening session when the share price tumbled and sellers outnumbered buyers.

Trading was later re-started at 1,445 francs (\$253) per share, 14 per cent below last week's close of 1,692 francs (\$297), dealers said.

By this afternoon its shares were climbing back over 1,500 francs (\$263).

The company, whose name has become synonymous with mineral water in the big US market, said it expected its familiar green glass bottles to be back in stores and restaurants before the end of this month.

The traces of the solvent benzene found in some test samples of Perrier in the United States appeared to be a cleaner used to de-grease bottling and packaging lines at the company's well in Vergeze, southern France, a spokesman said.

Benzene, a solvent used in detergents, paints and dry-cleaning fluid, was not allowed in the plant, but a product containing it may have been used without authorisation.

Perrier had acted quickly to verify that the precious well, which sends naturally effervescent water bubbling to the surface, was not contaminated, said spokesman Jean-Claude Lemaigre.

It had taken a quick and clear decision to withdraw its entire US stock and replace it with newly bottled water.

"We have no fear. Our good image is used to our behaviour... we will quickly be back on a firm footing," Lemaigre said by telephone from Vergeze. "The Vergeze plant is working normally this morning. All the tests are fine."

Currency rates

Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2873	0.2908
Sterling	0.4966	0.4986
DM	0.17369	0.17491
Sfr	0.19399	0.19542
FF	0.0519	0.05148
IL	0.002336	0.002350
Japan	0.0019995	0.0020144
Bah	0.76851	0.77177
UAE Dir	0.07888	0.07922
S. rial	0.07723	0.07758
Q. ryal	0.07756	0.07795
O. ryal	0.75235	0.75383

Interest Rates

Following are the average KID interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Rate	Offered
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	017.190
Sri Lanka rupee	7.340
Pakistani rupee	13.680
Bangladesh taka	5.330
US dollar	29080
Pound sterling	4940
UAE dirham	07913
Deutsche mark	17465
Japanese yen	002018

Africa mulls development with a democratic face

ARUSHA, Tanzania, Feb 12. (Reuters): African and foreign experts meet today to market the idea of development with a democratic face.

While few African governments show much enthusiasm for the type of reforms that have swept Eastern Europe, they are being nudged to give their 600 million people more say in shaping their lives.

"The democratisation of the development process — by which we mean the empowerment of the people, their involvement in decision-making,

in implementation and monitoring processes — is a condition sine qua non for socio-economic recovery and transformation," says Africa's top economist, Adebayo Adedeji.

The Nigerian heads the UN Economic Commission for Africa under whose auspices the five-day conference in this northern Tanzanian town is being held.

Convened under the slogan "Putting the people first," with popular participation in development its theme, the conference is expected to attract up to

300 delegates, ranging from African officials and foreign donors to trade unions and representatives of grassroots, women's and youth organisations.

Adedeji identifies a more democratic and self-reliant approach to development as one of several policies Africa must embrace to avoid "another lost decade" in the 1990s.

Stressing a theme pursued repeatedly in recent years, Adedeji maintains that while education, skills, technology, health and the people's general well-

being are important, they are not enough to achieve self-sustaining development.

For people to achieve full productive potential, he said in an address prepared for delivery on Tuesday, governments must create an enabling environment characterised by political freedom and human rights — "freedom of speech, thought and association, and freedom from arbitrary arrest."

His address, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, declared: "Self-reliant development requires that

power must be redistributed in favour of the society as a whole, not concentrated in the hands of a few, and that this must be accompanied by adequate and effective political accountability."

Calls to promote "popular participation" in development have grown steadily in recent years.

The World Bank, in a report released last November which proposed a major rescue effort for sub-Saharan Africa's battered economies, echoed the calls for a better balance between governments and the governed.

It proposed a strategy empowering ordinary people, especially women, to take more responsibility for their lives — measure that foster grassroots organisation, that nurture rather than obstruct informal sector enterprises, and that promote non-governmental and intermediary agencies.

"The growing conviction is that development must be more bottom-up, less top-down," it said, adding that the top-down approach demotivated those whose energies were most needed for development.

Iraqis driving to boost output capacity

Iraq expands Suba oilfield

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb 12. (AP): Iraq's Oil Ministry, driving to boost oil production capacity, has brought its southern Suba oilfield on stream with an initial output of 20,000 barrels a day, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported today.

Developing Suba, inaugurated Feb 8, is part of a major programme launched last year to develop Iraq's oil and gas reserves following the August 1988 ceasefire in the 8-year war with Iran.

Meantime, the Middle East Economic Survey (Mees) weekly Oil Journal said in its latest edition today that Iraq is inviting wider foreign participation in oilfield development, a major policy reversal.

INA, monitored in Nicosia, reported that production at Suba, 60 miles (100 kilometres) west of the port of Basra, can be boosted to 60,000 barrels of oil a day and that the field can also



Isam Al Chalabi produce 20 million cubic feet of gas daily.

year that it had completed a project to expand the Al Zubair field south of Basra to increase its production by 150,000 barrels of oil a day to 230,000 barrels daily.

INA said the Al Zubair expansion was carried out by the State Oil Project Co. with Iraqi and foreign contractors, while the drilling and preparation of wells was carried out by the Southern Oil Co.

Iraq's current oil production capacity is 4.5 million barrels a day. But it is observing an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries quota of 3.4 million barrels a day.

The Iraqis, however, are driving to boost production capacity to 5 million barrels a day. Oil exports are Iraq's economic mainstay and are vital to its post-war reconstruction programme.

Iraqi Oil Minister Isam Al Chalabi told the Nicosia-based Newsletter that widening foreign

participation in oil development marks a new policy under which the foreign companies "will be paid back in crude oil from the same field after the start of production."

Mees said this amounted to "a significant decision to broaden the participation of foreign companies in the development of oilfields in Iraq."

It added that the new policy "is evidently designed to speed up the expansion of Iraq's production capacity with infusions of new investment and technology, given the financial constraints that Iraq is experiencing" in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Iraq and other Arab oil producers have over the last two decades sought to ease foreign companies out.

But the slump in oil prices has limited their investment potential and they have recently been seeking new relations with foreign companies.

Gulf seeking easier access

Petrochemical exports

ABU DHABI, Feb 12. (Opecna): The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) will this month ask European businessmen to support its demands for easier access to Europe for its petrochemical exports, it has been disclosed here.

According to Saudi Arabian Industry and Electricity Minister Abdelaziz Al Zamil, the request for support would be made at talks with European Economic Community (EEC) industrialists in Granada, Spain, on 19-22 February.

"The meeting will be an opportunity for us to outline Gulf potential for joint industrial projects with the Europeans," the minister told newsmen on his departure from a visit here.

He said it would also give the GCC a chance to "understand our right" for free access to the Gulf region's products to EEC markets "on a reciprocal basis."

The six member states of the GCC, which produce around 10 million tonnes of petrochemicals and fertilisers annually, have been negotiating with the EEC for three years to lift a 15 per cent tariff on their petrochemical exports.

The EEC argues that such a move would result in the loss of cheap Gulf products on its markets. The EEC is the largest trade partner of the GCC, which comprises Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to Qatar and Bahrain.

Al Zamil said the two sides were heading into a "more important" stage of negotiations, adding that he hoped the next period of discussion would be "positive."

The minister was visiting the UAE for an exhibition of the kingdom's industries.



Carlos Menem

Argentine style

Living with inflation

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 12. (Reuters): A quick wit, decisiveness and patience are needed to survive hyperinflation in Argentina, where prices can rise higher in a day than they do in most other countries in a year.

Decades of economic instability have instilled in Argentines a sense of how to react to — and if possible take advantage of — price surges like those that raised living costs by 8,000 per cent over the past year.

Everything from cars and dollar bills to wine and subway tokens can be used for what some describe as speculation and others as self-preservation.

"We were born with inflation, we grew up with it. We know how to handle it. I know it's crazy, but that's how it is," said office manager Carlos Ruben.

Although salaries are adjusted monthly to compensate for inflation, prices can rise so quickly that the purchasing power of the pay packet can fall 30 per cent or more in 15 days.

"The golden rule is never to have australs in your pocket. As soon as you get paid buy something — food, shampoo, dollars, anything," Ruben said, referring to the Argentine currency.

The agile investor can make an overnight killing by spotting a commodity that has not been marked up as fast as others and is due for a big increase.

With prices often jumping by 50 per cent or more in one go, an item purchased before the hike can later be sold at a discount and given the investor a handsome profit.

But word of impending rises spreads fast and buyers frequently have to queue for hours to make a purchase.

Tokens for subways, telephones and public recreation centres provide another opportunity for the quick-witted, who buy as many as they can shortly before the price is due to go up. Demand for tokens was so great last week — ahead of a 40 per cent increase — that some stations had to limit sales.

In the provincial city of Cordoba, transport tokens have become a second currency, being accepted in payment for snacks, drinks and cigarettes at any of the thousands of street kiosks.

But sometimes the speculator gets it wrong — and the government goes out of its way to publicise the error, which frequently leads to unnecessary shortages of essential items.

Expectations of a sharp rise in petrol prices caused thousands of motorists to queue for up to three hours to fill their tanks over the new year holiday, forcing the new gas stations that remained open to ration sales. But the expected price rise never came, and the hours of waiting under the hot summer sun were in vain.

For those who do not have the time to wait in queues nor the capital to splash out on expensive but easily tradable items like new cars, the US dollar continues to be the traditional hedge.

Daily rises of 10 per cent against the crumbling austral are not uncommon. Over the past 12 months the austral has plummeted to 3,000 per dollar from 17.

President Carlos Menem, who took power last July, has failed to restore confidence in the austral. After a 250 per cent fall in the currency in just four months, pressure is mounting for a change in the economic team and its policies.

In Buenos Aires the latest dollar quotation can be obtained simply by asking the nearest taxi driver, bartender or caretaker.

Aluminium fever grips Gulf

World demand is growing

DUBAI, Feb 12. (Reuters): Gulf oil states are in a rush to transform their cheap and plentiful gas supplies into aluminium, encouraged by the export success of profitable smelters in Bahrain and Dubai.

Every country around the Gulf, with the exception of Kuwait, now has plans to build an aluminium smelter, and if all are realised, regional output will jump five times to 1.5 million tonnes per year by 1995.

Gulf industry analysts still forecast a bright future with no glut developing, as long as conditions turn out as expected, and because some smelters may not develop as quickly as the planners might like.

"World demand is growing by two to three per cent every year, there is still room for more (aluminium) smelters, unless there is a major recession in the West," one Gulf aluminium industry executive said.

Gulf industrialists also in their hopes on rising costs of producing aluminium in the Western industrial countries and say the Gulf's comparative advantage lies in cheap supplies of natural gas to power the plants.

Six Gulf states — Iran, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain — own around 27 per cent of the world's natural gas reserves.

Latest contenders in this race to build aluminium smelters are Iran and Iraq — still trying to reconstruct their economies since a ceasefire in August, 1988, halted the

Gulf war.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar's smelter projects are still on the drawing board. Dubai and Bahrain have already started capacity expansion schemes at their existing smelters.

Gulf analysts said world supply and demand are balanced around just below 15 million tonnes per year, but prices have fallen to around \$1,450 per tonne from their 1988 peak of \$4,200.

The cost of alumina, the raw material for the metal which must be shipped to the Gulf, has risen four times to \$400 per tonne in four years, which shrunk profit margins. But this has not discouraged the Gulf states from pursuing smelter plans.

Iran and Dubai-based International Development Corporation (IDC) announced last Friday a 220,000-tonne a year joint-venture smelter to be built at Iran's southern Gulf port of Bandar Abbas at a cost of \$1.35 billion within three years.

Iraq is also planning to build a 215,000-tonnes per year capacity smelter and French firm Pechiney will design the plant to be completed in three years, an Iraqi newspaper said.

"Iran and Iraq have the necessary conditions to make a smelter project feasible, a lot of natural gas, big domestic markets, and both need employment and growth," a Gulf-based industry analyst saw.

Exports on the rise

Tunisia making transition to open economy

TUNIS, Feb 12. (Reuters): Tunisia is making the transition from a closed economy based on import-substitution to one based on openness to the rest of the world, according to trade figures released today.

Overall trade grew 33 per cent in 1989 through part of this massive increase came from changes in the use of energy products and higher food imports to compensate for two years of drought.

The transition to an export-oriented economy was one of the aims of a structural adjustment programme adopted in 1986 with support from the World Bank.

The government has cut tariff rates and relaxed restrictions on imports of many products and has encouraged what amounts to offshore production of textiles and electrical goods.

"The figures suggest they are making progress. The trends are generally in the right direction," a foreign economist said.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance Statistics show that although the trade deficit grew 23 per cent in 1989, to 1,369 million dinars (\$1,520 million) from 1,112 million (\$1,235 million) in 1988, exports did rise faster than

imports.

The figures are slightly distorted by a switch from the use of locally refined fuel oil in power stations to natural gas imported from Algeria. This helped free an extra 1.2 million tonnes of crude oil for export and added to the gas import bill.

The main growth areas for exports were cement, clothing, semi-finished footwear and phosphate derivatives.

Economists said the high rate of growth in imports of machinery, especially for the textile, electrical and computer industries, indicated an encouraging level of investment.

But imports of consumer goods have also risen sharply. "It's disturbing that the proportion of consumer goods in overall imports has actually increased," said one. The proportion in 1989 was 23.6 per cent against 25.2 in 1988.

Total exports in 1989 were worth 2,782 million dinars (\$3,100 million), a 35.4 per cent increase over a gain of 2,055 million (\$2,280 million) in 1988.

Imports grew 31.1 per cent to 4,151 million dinars (\$4,610 million) from 3,167 million (\$3,520 million).

Cambodia hit by inflation

BANGKOK, Feb 12. (UPI): Inflation running at 50 per cent has hit the Cambodian rial in the past two weeks, apparently because of intensified fighting and the government's printing of new money to pay its troops, travellers from Cambodia said today.

"When we arrived in Cambodia in late January the rial was trading at 300 to the (US) dollar. Two weeks later the rate was up to 450," said a traveller who asked not to be identified.

Bombay share

Pr. Close	Open	Close
322.50	332	334
ACC	—	—
Adani Chem	—	—
Alm Nis	—	—
Art Fab	—	—
Ashtek Lay	82	83
Asia Paint	210	215
Atlas Corp	38	40
Auto Corp	50	51.25
Bajaj Auto	369.80	375
Bar Rayon	380	392.50
Blow Plast	687.50	705
Bon Dye	186	195
BK Bond	63	64
Barr Wd	85	80
Cashmere	3005	3100
Can Eater	2480	2530
Can Sps	181.25	181.25
Colgate	925	920
Crown Cr	14	13.50
Deep Fert	30.25	30
Dunlop	60	58
El Houd	59	58
El Houd	79	80.50
BSE Index	699.30	673.27
Eskayef	123.75	123.75
Essar Sps	26.37	26.75
Food Sps	102.75	102.50
Forbes	48.75	48
Gar Poly	42.50	42.50
Gen Sps	93.50	94
GNFC	37	37.50
Grasim	107.50	108.50
CE Sps	44.25	43.50
GRFC	157.50	161.25
Guj Aldi	76	75
Guj Heavy	15	14.50
Hiro Honda	18	16
Hind Ciba	1110	1160
Hind Lever	102.50	102
Hind Coca	136.25	137.50
Hind Motor	24.25	25.50
Hindaco	220	225
Hoechst	1530	1570
Indo	205	208
Ind Ory	51.50	53.50
Ind Rayon	85	87
Ind Sps	186.25	197.50
JK Sps	22	24
Kin Engg	147.50	145
Kir Cumm	70	70
KSE Pump	197.50	192.50
L & T	63	63
Lipton	85	85.50
Mac Rused	157.50	156.25
Sam Cos	74.50	77.50
Shaw Wall	—	—
Shree Cam	—	—
Shri Fib	50	51
Sigma	102	103
SKF	1250	1270
Sita Mitt	51	52.50
Tata Chem	121	120
Tata Oil	110.50	114
Tata Pow	412.50	415
Telco	110.50	114
Therap Agro	103.25	105.75
Theco	136.25	140
Vedant	69	70
Vedant	65	65
Wimco	22	22.75
Zenith	54.50	55
Zuari Agro	38	38

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Japan ruling party loss would shake markets, upset policy

TOKYO, Feb 12. (Reuters): Japan's financial markets would be shaken and its economic and foreign policy upset if the Liberal Democratic Party lost its 34-year hold on power in next week's election, brokers and analysts say.

"If the opposition parties won a majority, it would be a big shock," said one stock market analyst. "There would be the possibility of another Black Monday."

While other analysts are not so gloomy as to see a repeat of the stock market's 15 per cent plunge in October 1987, they agree that financial markets would be battered by an LDP loss.

"It will be chaos" if a socialist-centred coalition takes power, a former Foreign Ministry official said.

The Japan Socialist Party has not spelled out clearly where it stands on many issues, much less worked out an agreement with potential coalition part-



Jacqui swings into action on the army assault course.

Incredible courage Plucky young mum reaches goal

THE tiny heroine scaled the wall, shimmied up and down the rope ladder with ease, leapt over the water and crossed the finishing line of the tough army assault course.

It was an achievement any young soldier would be proud of. But for Jacqui Harper, it was very special because the determined 27-year-old is a thalidomide victim born without legs.

Army officers were amazed by the speed at which she completed the 17-obstacle course but Jacqui is used to facing a challenge.

When she is not busy bringing up her two small children, she has been known to try out scuba-diving and parachuting and once even crawled 22 miles to raise money for charity.

Amazingly, despite being so badly handicapped herself, she never stops thinking of others. And through her courage and determination, she has raised thousands of pounds for a brain-damaged youngster and a neighbour's child who has a quarter of his heart missing.

Jacqui, only 2ft 8ins (0.9m) tall, told me: "I just think something needs to be done to help people. The way I see it, I was born with no legs. I wouldn't know what to do with a pair of legs if I had them—and you couldn't imagine what it would be like to be me."

"So people think what I do is fantastic and brave. But I don't think it takes any courage at all."

Anyone watching Jacqui in action at the assault course at Warcop training ground near Appleby, Cumbria—crawling between obstacles and using her hands to leap over ropes—would find that hard to believe.

As we talked at her immaculate, cosy home in nearby Workington, Jacqui told me why she couldn't resist this particular challenge.

She said: "I was thinking of ideas to raise money for a two-year-old boy called Robert, who has a quarter of his heart missing and fluid on the brain. His treatment is very expensive."

"He is now due to have an operation with a 50-50 chance of success. If the operation doesn't go ahead, he has only five months to live."

"Then I heard the Army at Warcop allowed people to use their assault course to raise money for charity. I didn't think twice. I knew I should have a go—for Robert."

Respect

Army officials couldn't believe their eyes when Jacqui turned up on the day. But their disbelief turned to respect when cheered on by her friends, she successfully tackled the whole course which includes 6-12ft walls—and finished in just under 20 minutes. It was a score any first-timer on the course would have been proud of.

Major Dennis Gould, a former chief physical training instructor, said: "Jacqui is one of the most courageous people I have ever met. She did brilliantly."

Although £1,200 was needed for little Robert's operation, Jacqui's appeal for him topped £1,300 after her brave attempt. Now she and the boy's family have a nail-biting wait to know if the operation is successful.

Jacqui, whose wide-eyed, elfin face is framed by brown curls, told me: "When you are a mother yourself, you understand how the family must feel."

Her own two children, 6-year-old Leanne and Emily, three, are normal, healthy toddlers. Since Jacqui's divorce from husband Jasoo 18 months

ago, she has brought them both up alone. But she said: "I have always done everything for the children."

"Perhaps if both my legs had been amputated, I would have found normal household chores difficult to adjust to. But as I always been like this, there has never been a problem."

"I do everything—I do the cooking, mend the children's clothes, take them to school in my specially adapted car."

"I have a normal-sized kitchen, although the units are a bit lower. I use a wheelchair to reach the oven and sometimes I stand on the worktops to do the washing-up."

Another child who won the courageous young mother's heart was tiny Stephanie Scott, brain-damaged at the age of 11 months when a heavy cold turned into a severe virus.

At just 20 months old, Stephanie needed vital treatment but her family, who lived near Jacqui, were horrified to learn that this would cost about £15,000.

Practice

When Jacqui heard about it, she was spurred into action. This time, the fund-raising attempt she decided on what was a long-distance crawl from her home town to Workington to Keswick, 22 miles away.

Friends thought she would never do it. She had parachuted before from 11,000 ft—and enjoyed it—but this attempt might defeat her.

Of course, it didn't. Jacqui told me: "I practiced crawling every night for weeks, sometimes covering



Jacqui, at home with daughters Emma and Leanne.

five miles or more in a night. I wore out quite a few pairs of gloves!

"But when I started crawling on the day, I found out that nothing could really have prepared me. I think I must have passed the pain barrier about three times. After about 13 miles, I felt as if my wrists were breaking. My hands were blistered and bleeding and I really didn't think I would be able to go on."

"My friends were lining the road and cheering me on. And about halfway through, one of them took me to one side and strapped my wrists up so tightly that I could barely bend them. This gave me some support. But I certainly didn't feel brave then."

The only thing that kept her going was when Stephanie's parents brought the child along to see her. I gave her a hug and somehow that gave me strength," said Jacqui.

"My friends even stood in front of the road signs so I couldn't see how many miles I had to go. And of course, I finished eventually."

Despite her exhaustion, the first thing Jacqui did after her amazing feat of endurance was to join her friends at a local disco!

I'll celebrate my century—and that's a bet!

ONLY pensioner James Hawkins will reach his 100th birthday. He has broken the habit of betting his money where his wife, Joan, has given the great-grandfather odds of 100 to 1 that he will achieve his century.

And although James has never believed in gambling, he was more than happy to pot down his £50 for what he sees as a good investment.

He said: "I've never been a betting man. I've always thought it to be a mug's game. But I have got to see that my three lovely daughters are provided for."

His daughters—Joyce, Jean and Janet—are now all grandmothers, but he still sees his offspring as his responsibility.

If he wins the bet, he stands to collect

£50,000 which he will divide between his daughters and several hospitals.

As we chatted in his cosy little flat in Dover, James was in no doubt that he would celebrate his 100th on December 30 in the year 2003.

"The good Lord has let me live 85 years and I shouldn't live for another 157," he said.

"I don't smoke and I don't drink. I don't really do anything that is bad for me."

"I live quite a healthy, active life because I was always active in the Army. I was one of my battalion's cross-country runners."

His fitness was evident as he trotted around his flat, showing me beautifully hand-made furniture, which he had produced as a carpenter.

Although he packed away his working tools long ago, he still finds time to make

the odd little gadget, including book-holders, travelling bags and even his own special envelopes.

He admits most of his time is taken up with housework and shopping, but the great-grandfather of seven can always look forward to the weekly games of bingo with his neighbours. He chuckled as I asked what friends and neighbours think of his bet. "I've heard them say I haven't a chance, but I must have a chance of William Hill wouldn't have taken the bet," he said.

"One of my daughters teases me about what state I'll be in if I reach 100. I just hope I'm still walking about."

His neighbours are sceptical but James can assure them that longevity runs in the family. In fact, his eldest sister is 96.

As far as he knows, the bet is a totally

original idea. But there have been crazy wagers since man first landed on the Moon. James was inspired to put his proposition to William Hill when he discovered that someone named David Trellfall put on a £10 bet in the sixties that a man would walk on the Moon before 1979. He collected £10,000, when Neil Armstrong did just that.

More recently, a young student at York University placed a treble bet with the odds of 1000 to 1 that "Margaret Thatcher would stay Prime Minister until the year 2000; a tenth planet would be discovered before the year 2000; actor Arnold Schwarzenegger would win an Oscar by the year 2000."

Although the student could only afford a £5 bet, he stands to win £5,000.



Sprightly pensioner James Hawkins wrote to bookmaker William Hill with his unique bet.

Oh baby....whatever happened to Leslie

THEY say motherhood changes a woman but, in Leslie Ash's case, the transformation is incredible. Gone is the blonde, spiky-haired semi-punk from TV's C.A.T.S. Eyes, replaced by an elegant, slim woman with long dark hair.

"I know I look a bit different these days," she tells me, "but I was getting bored with the bimbo, dumb-blonde image."

"Pregnancy seems to do that to you. It makes you grow up. Overnight. You just don't get away with anything anymore."

Her son Joseph was born in January. "I look at my life totally differently now," says Leslie. "I have such a huge responsibility and I enjoy being a mother. I hope I will be a good one. Let's say I've always had the mother's instinct."

Leslie, 29, is married to Nottingham Forest footballer Lee Chapman and she knows exactly who Joseph takes after. "He's a miniature Lee," she says. "We have Lee's baby pictures and the two of them are identical. Joseph's got a square head and so did Lee."

"But he is a lovely, bonny baby. And he changes every day. For the first three months, babies don't do much. They just lay there like a bit of a blob. But then suddenly all their characteristics start coming out. He has really got a lot of personality."

Leslie's career is again on the up. After acting successes in films and TV, including the all-girl cop show C.A.T.S. Eyes, she has now turned her hand to stage work. In October she opens in London's West End in the comedy Paris Match.

shouts at me. 'Look, just pull yourself together!', the worse I get."

Leslie decided to move over to the theatre after working with Jill Gascoigne on C.A.T.S. Eyes. "I had always put theatre at the back of my priorities for my career," she says. "I've always done TV and film but working with Jill, who has done a lot of stage work, made me aware that there might be something missing from my experience."

Young mum Leslie planned her pregnancy and deliberately looked after herself for seven months before she conceived. "I didn't smoke or drink and I ate very healthily. I wanted to clean up my system and be perfectly healthy before getting pregnant. That could be the reason Joseph was so big when he was born. He was 12lbs 12ozs which is enormous."

"But the birth was a wonderful experience. I hadn't ever worried about the process of giving birth and, when the time came, I went through it very well. And after waiting nine months, it was such a wonder and a joy to finally have the baby, there in my arms."

But Leslie's pregnancy took its toll. Already slightly overweight before becoming pregnant, the 5ft 5ins actress ballooned to an alarming 11st. Before Joseph's birth, she was put on 3st, while she was expecting. "I was already too heavy when I became pregnant," she admits. "I went up to almost 11st. But don't forget, Joseph was a huge baby."

"I could hardly move in the last two months. I had to walk around a room going from chair to chair."

"It was hard work losing all that weight. At first, a bit sort of fell off by itself. But then I was left with about a stone that wouldn't budge. I had to train my stomach to accept less food. I had become used to eating a lot, so I was constantly saying to myself, 'No, I'm not going to eat that.' But now I'm actually a few pounds under my normal weight."

Despite the weight loss and dramatic change in hair colour, the face remains much the same. The huge green eyes shine out from that tiny elfin face that became so familiar to a generation of youngsters who used to tune in every Friday evening to the TV pop show The Tube.

"I think The Tube was the most embarrassing part of my career," she tells me. "I was really

only filling in for Paula Yates, the regular presenter, while she had her baby Fifi."

"When I was first asked to do it, the producer said, 'All you have to do is introduce bands. You won't have to do interviews or anything.'"

"So I said, 'Great, I'll do it'. But suddenly I found myself up against people like Paul McCartney! I was always briefed before an interview but I remember once I did an interview with Darryl Hall and John Oates and everything I'd been told to say was wrong. I nearly died."



Leslie with nine-month-old baby Joseph.

thing like that but I've never been invited. I don't think anyone knows I play."

Will baby Joseph follow in soccer star dad's footsteps or mum's? "It's entirely up to him," says Leslie. "If he wants to be a footballer, fine. If he wants to be an actor, that's fine, too. I'm just going to make sure he gets the best education possible and then he can make up his own mind."

Success

Hays' ping pong game

HOLLYWOOD (UPI): Robert Hays is starring in a new movie that he describes as a murder-mystery-comedy-adventure-horror-sports-drama.

The star of *Airplane!* is also appearing in a new television series, *FM*. Titled *For Better or For Worse*, the film co-stars Kim Cattrall and is due for release next month.

"I play a sportswriter who marries a girl he thinks is a travel agent but who is really a secret agent," he said. "They go off to Europe on their honeymoon and the poor guy is innocently caught up in a covert operation."

"They wind up being chased from country to country by a bunch of spies."

"We made the picture a year and a half ago, before I started working in the series."

"In *FM* the handsome, affable Hays plays the programme director for a small radio station in Washington."

"We did five episodes as a test run last summer," he said. "NBC decided to pick us up for eight more shows. The new ones will be going on the air in a few weeks."

A veteran of both the silver screen and TV, Hays works back and forth between the media depending on which available projects appeal to him.

He made his television debut in the *Angie* series a decade ago. During the hiatus from the two-year run of *Angie* he burst into movie prominence as the male lead in *Airplane!*, which made him a star.

Since then Hays has ping-ponged back and forth between TV and feature films, including *Take This Job and Shove It*, *Airplane II*, *Utilities* and *Scandals*. He starred for a single season in the *Starman* series.

"It's difficult to make decisions about movies and TV because the choices aren't all mine," he said. "The choices are limited to what I'm presented or what I come up with. I'm not a writer so that's real hard to do."

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

DENTAL WORK MAY REQUIRE USE OF AN ANTIBIOTIC

QUESTION: While your recent answer about mitral valve prolapse (MVP) was informative and for the most part correct, you failed to mention the need to take antibiotics before dental work. My cardiologist is always warning me about this, and I think your readers should also be informed of the dangers. Please include this information in your column soon.

ANSWER: Thank you for your suggestion and your concern. And you certainly make a good point. The American Heart Association does suggest that antibiotics be given to all individuals with mitral regurgitation, or leakage around the mitral valve, before even minor surgery, including dental work.

In about 95 per cent of people who have some sort of dental treatments, bacteria will enter the blood stream, for at least a short time. However, individuals with normal heart valves and normal immune systems are able to combat this invasion, and no serious illnesses develop. People with faulty valves are less able to resist, and antibiotics are given.

A recent article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* concludes that people over the age of 60 were four times less likely to be advised to take these antibiotics by their physicians than younger patients. This could be due to the fact that the number of patients with MVP becomes less as patients are older, or that elderly people just don't hear about preventive measures as often as younger folks.

There is still some controversy about the need for this intervention, as even the chance of infection among high-risk patients is relatively low, and data to support the recommendations is limited.

However, if you know you have MVP and are about to undergo dental work, asking your physician about an appropriate antibiotic seems in order.

QUESTION: I'm sometimes so tired that I just want to get home from work and go to bed. A check by my physician has shown that I'm normal and healthy. My wife thinks that I need some vitamins to perk me up and that this simple answer is the solution to my energy problem. Is it true that vitamins are a good source of energy and may overcome my fatigue?

ANSWER: Probably the most common complaint that a physician hears is one of weakness, fatigue and a plain old feeling of being "too tired to do anything."

The causes of real but to lifestyles and psychological problems as well. I'm going to buy your physician's findings that all is normal in your case, and confide my answer to your question, rather than a solution to your problem.

Vitamins are indeed necessary in any well-balanced diet, but it's the calories in your food that really provide the energy, and there are simply no calories in vitamins. However, vitamins are needed to help convert the calories in food into the energy your body requires to carry on its daily functions.

While vitamins cannot supply calories, vitamin supplements may help if your present diet doesn't contain the necessary amount of vitamins to provide this vital service for your system. In these circumstances, taking a daily multiple vitamin preparation can put your nutrition back into balance, and restore your feelings of pep and vigour.

Of course, a good look at your work and sleeping habits, as well as your daily ration of exercise and relaxation also may provide you with precious clues that may lead to the answer you seek.

Americans are living longer! But the older population doesn't always understand the health changes that occur with aging. Dr Bruckheim's new booklet, *Aging—Learn to Enjoy the Inevitable*, explains how the body changes, and how a positive outlook plus some preventive measures can improve the quality of life. To order your copy, write to Aging, P.O. Box 4406, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4406.

Science

Fusion experiment

WEST GERMANY'S largest experiment in the area of controlled nuclear fusion, *Asdex-Upgrade*, is scheduled to begin shortly at the *Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik* (Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics) in Garching. The device is nine metres high and weighs 700 tons. It was primarily designed for research into the effects of and possible counter measures to the interference occurring between the artificial "solar fire" and the reactor walls. In future fusion reactors temperatures will be as high as 100 million degrees Celsius.

The reactors are designed such that the "solar fire" will be ignited with the help of an electrically charged, gaseous mixture of two hydrogen variants, deuterium and tritium. The nuclear fusion of the atomic nuclei to form helium will be achieved by using magnetic fields to keep the plasma, the deuterium-tritium mixture, in a ring-shaped, freely floating state within the vacuum of the reaction receptacle. *Asdex-Upgrade* will be capable of holding plasma rings featuring a radius of 1.7 metres and a volume of 13 cubic metres at temperatures up to 25 million degrees Celsius.

The experiment can be used to search for solutions to crucial problems caused by the strong interplay between the reaction plasma and the reactor walls, which may extinguish the fusion fire. This means that the particles radiating from within the plasma have to be intercepted before they hit the walls. The feat is achieved with the help of so-called diverters. An earlier experiment conducted in Garching, the *Asdex* experiment, did pioneering work in this area. Designing diverters for use in reactors is the prime goal of the *Asdex-Upgrade* research endeavour commencing in 1990. The experiment will cost approximately 200 million Deutsch marks and is an integral part of the *European Fusion Research Programme*.

Top 20 videos

- LOS ANGELES, (UPI): The top 20 videocassette sales, based on Billboard's survey of sales:
1. *Batman*—Warner Home Video
 2. *Bambi*—Walt Disney Home Video
 3. *The Wizard of Oz*—The fifth anniversary edition—MGM-UA home video
 4. *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*—Touchstone Home Video
 5. *New Kids on the Block: Hangin' tough live*—CBS Music Video Enterprises
 6. *The Land before Time*—MCA home video
 7. *New Kids on the Block: Hangin' tough*—CBS Music Video Enterprises
 8. *Paula Abdul*—Straight Up—Virgin Music Video
 9. *Jane Fonda's*—Light Aerobics and Stress Reduction Workout—Warner Home Video
 10. *Lawrence of Arabia*—RCA-Columbia pictures home video
 11. *Die hard*—CBS-Fox video
 12. *Janet Jackson's*—Rhythm Nation 1814—AM video
 13. *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*—family home entertainment
 14. *Bobby Brown*—His Prerogative—MCA music video
 15. *Lethal Weapon*—Warner Home Video
 16. *Gone With The Wind*—The fifth anniversary edition—MGM-UA home video
 17. *Best of Eddie Murphy*—Saturday Night Live—Paramount home video
 18. *The Little Mermaid*—Starmaker Ent. Inc.
 19. *1990 Playmate*—Video Calendar—Hbo video
 20. *Bon Jovi*—New Jersey the videos—Polygram Music Video.

Priority

She is staying in London while the play is on but she and Lee have a home in Derbyshire.

"I don't have much time to relax at the moment," she says. "The baby is in Derby with his nanny and I only see him on the weekends. I miss him like mad."

One of her problems moving from television to the stage is her inability to control a natural tendency to giggle.

"I get the giggles very badly," she admits. "Two of my co-stars in *Paris Match* are Sheila Steafel and Stephen Moore. It's incredibly difficult working with them because they are both exceptionally funny."

"I am a dreadful giggler. I always have been and I always will be. And the more a director

Happy birthday



Muhamed Abdel Ghani turned 6 on February 11



Sherrin Raju turns 8 on February 14.



Rona Garcia on February 5.



Lizelle Moniz on February 13.



S. Juhl Quadri on February 14.



Sama'an Akal turns 11 February 14.



Garrish Remedios turned 2 February 12



Kanika Raj turns 9 on February 14

The Ghost of Chainley Manor

By Julie Hodgson

A CRACK of lightning descended from the thick black sky, the clouds were swollen with rain, ready to burst, the trees in the grounds of Chainley Manor were swaying in the wind, no birds were singing for they had long since flown to their shelter. The sun had given up on trying to shine, the swirling mass of dark cloud had indeed taken over.

"Your tea, My Lady" said Dunstable, the butler.

"Thank you" replied Miss Veronique, and promptly sat down for tea.

Veronique Chainley had lived in the manor all her life, with her sick father as did her ancestors. She was a beautiful young woman, but had not yet taken a husband. There had been many stories of the ghost, and she had not, as yet, seen or heard anything untoward. However, as she was sipping her Earl Grey, the thunder cracked so loudly and made poor Veronique jump out of her skin.

"My goodness," she shuddered, and held a hand to her thumping heart. Dunstable came in and checked if everything was alright, as all the lights had gone out.

"I think we have a fuse gone, Ma'm" he explained, and began to light some candles that were on the dining table.

Lady Veronique continued to

sip her tea in the candle light. The sky had gradually gone and more foreboding, the clouds soon released the burden of the rain drops. It had held for so long, and ran down the window panes of Chainley Manor. Lady Veronique has decided to retire early to her bed chamber, and read a little Byron or Shakespeare, to help her to sleep, as it was only 8 pm. "Maybe I shall study my Latin verbs for university next week," she suggested to herself, out loud.

She took an extra pot of tea with her, and bid good night to her servants. After sending herself into her rooms, she lit the kerosene lamp, she still thought the lamps were easier than this new electric light, at least this did not go out in a storm.

She was not sure how long she had read for, but found she had drifted off to sleep, and woke up with a start, as she felt chilly, even though she was sat by a big log fire. She got up shivering, and put on her night attire, and snuggled into bed. As her eyelids grew heavy, she thought she heard some one call her, but she could not move, she wasn't sure if she was asleep and dreaming, or fighting to stay awake, to listen for the voice. She dreamt that the person who was calling her was a very handsome man, she did not know his name, but he seemed to know her very well, he called her and she willingly



followed the voice, when she reached it, she was enchanted by this man, he was dressed in a red coat, with gold braid decorating it, he had a black Napoleon hat on, and strong black leather boots. He smiled down at her, as she stared mouth agape. "Well, who are you?" she said, barely a whisper.

"My name is of no importance, all I need is for you to be here with me," he said, his hazel eyes burning deep into her eyes.

Naturally, she fell in love with his charm, and was hypnotised by his voice.

Upon awaking the next day, she could not shake the man's face from her mind. Had she dreamt it? Of course, she reasoned with herself. Every night after that first night she had the very same dream. The staff of Chainley Manor became

aware of the sudden and dramatic change in Lady Veronique, but she would not see a doctor, she floated around the house in just a night gown, and never got dressed any more.

On the night of Wednesday 14th February, Lady Veronique went to her bed chambers as per usual, and began dreaming, she danced with her handsome man who had no name, for he never did tell her. He finally broke the spell of silence by saying,

"My dearest Veronique, as you have come to realise, we cannot live without one another, you must not wake up in the morning, that way we can stay together forever. This is the only night it can be done for it is Saint Valentine's Day, and all lovers who wish to be together can be." He held her face up to his and awaited an answer.

"Of course my love, what do I have to do?" she asked.

"At the last stroke of midnight, you must repeat these words. 'To thee I give my heart, my life, my soul, I here depart,' he finished.

They waited in each others arms until midnight, and she said those words, not realising that she could never be mortal again, once she had said it. And she did not know that she could not be a ghost with him forever, she only had until next Valentine's Day, then he would look for his next companion, or should I say victim!!!!

To a very special friend

Sitting with a pen to share feelings with a friend. Looking out the window where beauty does not end.

Thinking of the Lord for his nature true. Praising the Lord for his creation — and you.

Looking at the sun, staring at the sand. Forgetting about the pen sweating in my hand.

Travelling to a world: red, pink and blue smiling at the Lord for his blessings — and you.

Hearing the sound of steps, hearing passers hard, dancing with the wind, dancing with a bird.

Watching in amazement as a weightless bird now flew. Thanking the Lord for everything, our friendship — and you.

Amina Reza.

Get well wishes



Mohammed Ahmed Muntasar is recovering from recent illness. As the picture shows, he is happy to be back home!

Amazing facts

About food and drink

a pear, nor is it related to the fig plant. It is the fruit of the cactus, and tastes like cucumber.

Bishop Stringer of the Yukon, while out in the wilds and short of food, had to stew his spare pair of boots and eat them.

The world's heaviest coffee drinkers are the Finns, who consume an average of 37g (1.3 oz) per person per day. The world's heaviest drinkers of beer are the Bavarians, from Southern Germany.

The roots of the dandelion can be roasted and used to make dandelion coffee, which some people cannot distinguish from the real thing. Infact many people prefer it because it contains no caffeine.

Popcorn is not a modern invention. It is made from the grains of maize, and has been eaten in South America since the days of the Inca empire.

Bombay duck comes from Bombay — but it is not duck. It's dried fish!

The grape was certainly one of the first fruits to be used for making wine, and remains by far the best. Both the ancient Greeks and the ancient Romans perfected the craft of wine making. Roman wines were highly prized, both for their flavour,

and their long life: stored in tightly sealed earthenware jars some varieties would keep and improve for 100 years or more.

Spices, such as cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and pepper, were once bought from Arab traders. They were expensive, which was one reason why people considered it worthwhile making the voyages of discovery which found their origin.

In Arabia, locusts are captured, their wings and legs removed, and the bodies fried in butter and eaten.

Vermicelli is the Italian name for a very thin kind of spaghetti; it means 'little worms'. Spaghetti is thought of as Italian — but infact pasta is eaten all over the world, and comes in many shapes, colours, sizes — and even flavours! There is one type made from chocolate paste.

Hungry?

A publicity stunt at a supermarket in Belgium in 1984 involved the cooking of a giant 35,000 — egg omelette! In America recently, egg manufacturers have been trying to persuade people to buy eggs, ready-whipped, in cartons rather like those used to sell milk. In France, it has been possible to buy omelettes in a tube since 1980. Other foods available in tubes include boney, onion paste, garlic paste, and tomato paste.

Variety

Craze for Swiss finesse persists

MONTREUX, Switzerland, Feb 12. (Reuters). Well-educated, emancipated young women wishing to learn how to create perfect choux pastry have nothing to be ashamed of.

Swiss finishing schools, which have cultivated such skills in generations of women, are trying to shake off their image as retreats where rich young ladies of doubtful academic ability while away the months between leaving school and marriage.

"Those outmoded ideas do persist in some establishments and give good finishing schools a bad name," said Viviane Neri-Failletaz, who has run the Institute Villa Perrefeu in Montreux since she bought it from her mother 19 years ago.

"Our girls must be serious and academically minded. Usually they come to us before university."

Villa Perrefeu nestles on a mountainside above Montreux and looks out across Lake Geneva. This is the canton of Vaud in southwestern Switzerland, the heart of finishing-school country, and a host of similar schools are scattered across the surrounding mountains.

Forty students attend Perrefeu, a privilege which costs their parents 48,730 Swiss francs (\$32,926) for about seven and a half months of tuition.

Whereas finishing schools traditionally recruited pupils from well-off English families, Perrefeu's intake is largely made up of Latin Americans, North Americans, Japanese and a handful of Europeans.

Most will soon enrol at University to study business or international relations. Some already have degrees. One

at maths to find she isn't so good at flower-arranging.

Examples of the students' flower arrangements cover nearly every table in the school. They include some rather bizarre experimental works involving pineapples, bananas and daffodils.

For the rest of their lives most Pierrefeu girls will have servants to arrange flowers and set tables for them but Neri-Failletaz believes they must know how to do things properly in order to supervise their staff.

Table-setting, which might be regarded by the uninitiated as a mindless chore, is elevated here to an art form.

A group of Latin American girls wearing white kid gloves mills around the dining table while Neri-Failletaz uses a measuring tape to ensure the dinner plates are exactly the correct distance apart.

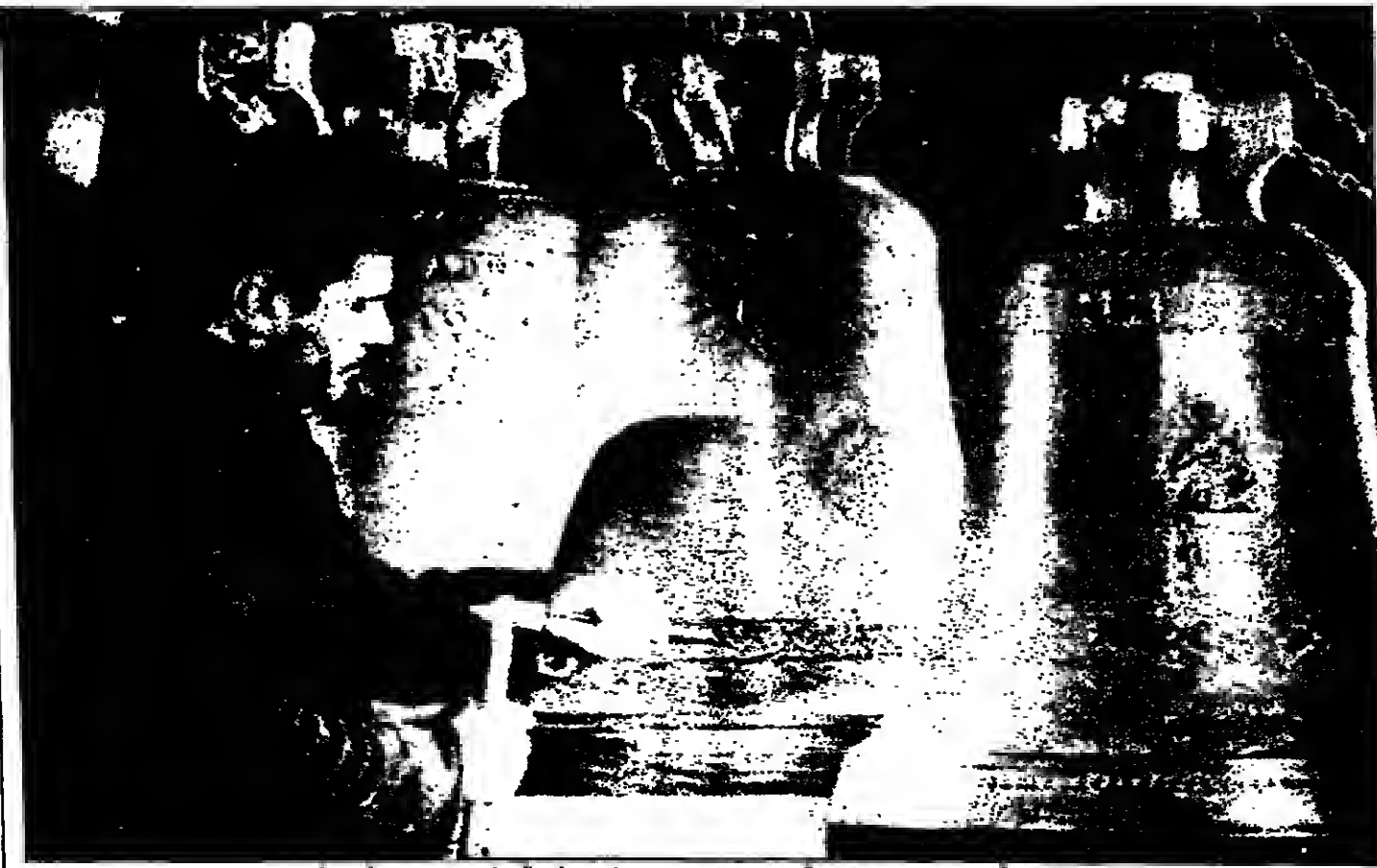
At dinner one group of students pairs off into husbands and wives to play the roles of bankers, diplomats and politicians while another group discreetly serves the meal.

Topics of conversation are chosen beforehand. They should never include money, politics, religion or disease.

Unfortunately today's selected themes — art, archaeology and education — fail to inspire anyone and the conversation lapses into skiing trips and Russian classes.

Miki from Japan finds little to say in her role as the wife of an art-gallery proprietor and begins to talk about her real self.

"I've finished university so I might get married now but my parents want an arranged marriage and I don't."



A craftsman puts the final touches on a bell at the Pontifical Marinelli Foundry.

Marinellis

For whom the bell tolls

AGNONE, Italy. (Reuters). You may wonder for whom the bell tolls, but if you hear it ringing in Italy chances are it was forged by the Marinelli's of Agnone.

The Marinelli family was making bells in this mountain town near Naples before the black death ravaged Europe, before Gutenberg invented movable type, before Columbus discovered America.

By 1624, when English poet John Donne wrote the immortal line "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee," the Marinelli's were nearing their fourth century in business.

still used the same way to make casts and moulds. The molten bronze is still hand-poured by workers using pots on long poles.

The only concessions to the 20th century are an air compressor replacing bellows to help heat bronze to 1,200 degrees centigrade (2,200 fahrenheit) and a motor to help lift big bells, which weigh as much as five tonnes, out of the casting pit.

High technology leads us to products that are repetitive. Each bell is an original and that makes our work emotional," said Pasquale Marinelli, 69, the current patriarch. "Even if we wanted to, we couldn't make two bells

mantle is lifted intact.

The "false bell" layer is chipped away. The mantle is lowered over the original inner core. Everything is buried in a sand pit. Molten bronze is poured into the space once occupied by the "false bell" layer and allowed to cool for days.

There are long drying intervals between each phase so the layers will separate later. A big bell can take four months to complete, including the final stages of sanding and polishing.

To help everything go just right, the work-

Calypso power in Caribbean

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (AP). The inescapable calypso beat reflects the political pulse of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, frequently serving up stinging social commentary or risqué lyrics.

Music is pervasive in the two islands that make up this Caribbean nation off the coast of Venezuela.

Calypso blasts at ear-splitting levels at outdoor fetes, in shopping centres and even from the taxi vans that cruise the highways, broadcasting criticism that was long suppressed in more prosaic political debate.

"It was one of the first expressions of people living on these islands," said Holly Betaudier, a veteran television programme host. "Even today in this country, people are rather careful about what we say about people for fear that you could be charged for libel or sedition," Betaudier said. "Until today, there are lots of sanctions and apparent control, but for the calypsonian it doesn't hold. He is a poet laureate to say and sing what he wants."

Columbus first sighted Trinidad in 1498, and it had a succession of Spanish, French and, after 1802, British rulers.

During the centuries of occupation, calypso — also known as kaiso — sung in the local patois was frequently the only free form of public expression. Even after independence in 1962, fears lingered.

A black power movement swept the Caribbean in the late 1960s, and took root in Trinidad and Tobago. Riots broke out in 1970, with widespread burning and looting in Port of Spain; part of the army mutinied, and a state of emergency was declared.

Forms

New laws restricted political speech and organizing and gave police wide search-and-seizure powers; calypso music was one of the few unregulated forms of expression. Though the laws have been relaxed and there is a free press, many people are still wary of overt political speech.

Calypso originated in Trinidad, and it is extremely popular throughout the English-speaking Caribbean. It is sung in Trinidadian English, a sing-song dialect that can sound musical even without the accompaniment of instruments.

Calypsonians are celebrities, but they are regarded as more than just musicians. "They are terribly powerful. They influence the political decisions many times," Betaudier said.

As social commentators, calypso players are wooed by politicians and sometimes put on party payrolls, officials said.

In the weeks leading up to the annual carnival, Betaudier said, "You go to certain tents and you'll see they run down the government. You go to other tents, they support the government."

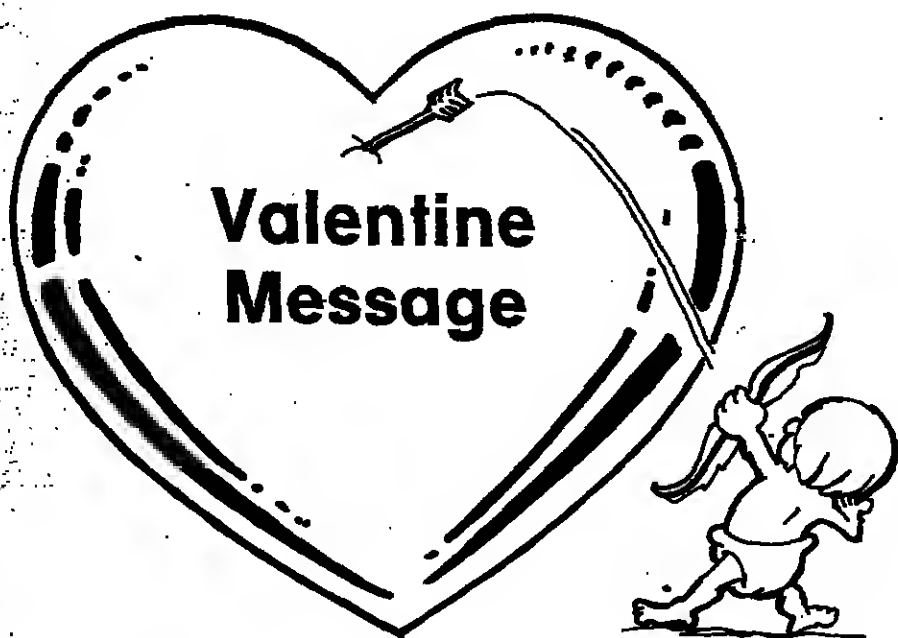
Former calypso monarch Cro Cro croons a song blasting the now out-of-power People's National Movement party.

Meanwhile, reigning calypso monarch Chalkdust is on the other end of the Trinidadian political spectrum. Chalkdust, singing the song selected as 1989's "best political calypso" called "Chauffeur Wanted," refers to Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson as an inept taxi van driver who knocks down...

Hidden Words

Directions:

There are hidden words in the words in the heart. Use the clues to discover them.

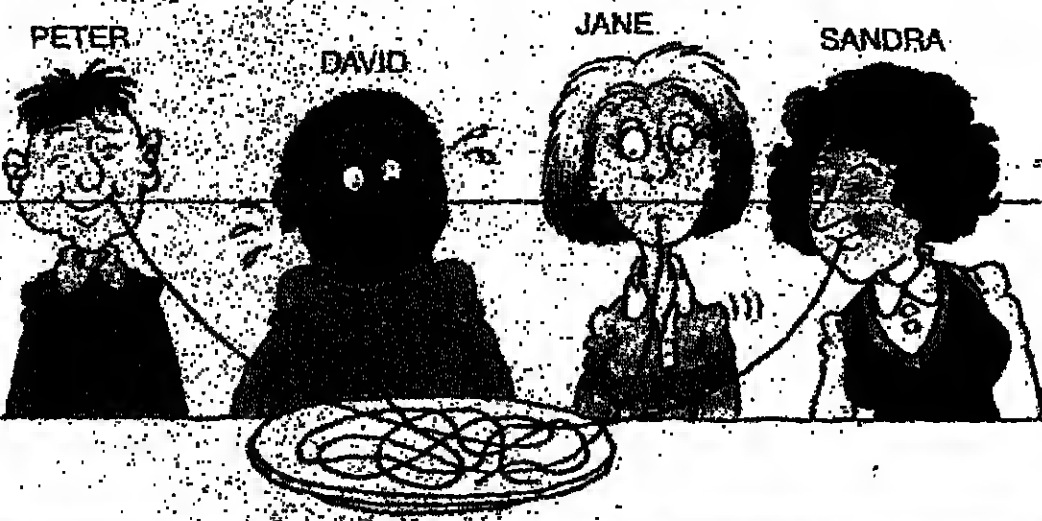


Clues:

1. o shiny metal
2. o season near Easter
3. clutter
4. o spice
5. how old you are
6. o volley
7. o drink

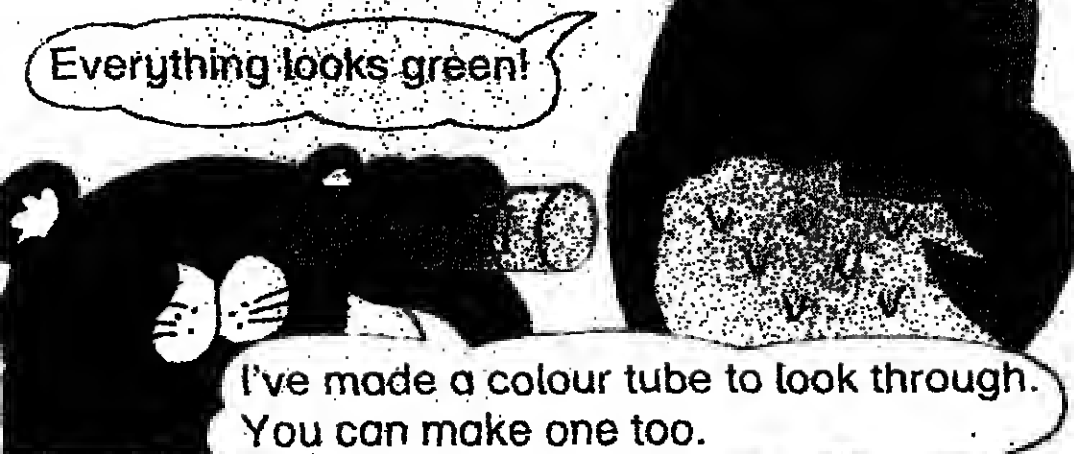
Spaghetti Junction

These people don't realise it yet, but two of them are eating the same piece of spaghetti! Follow the strands to see which two they are.



Join the science gang

Tiger and Owl have saved some clear coloured sweet papers. They are looking through them.

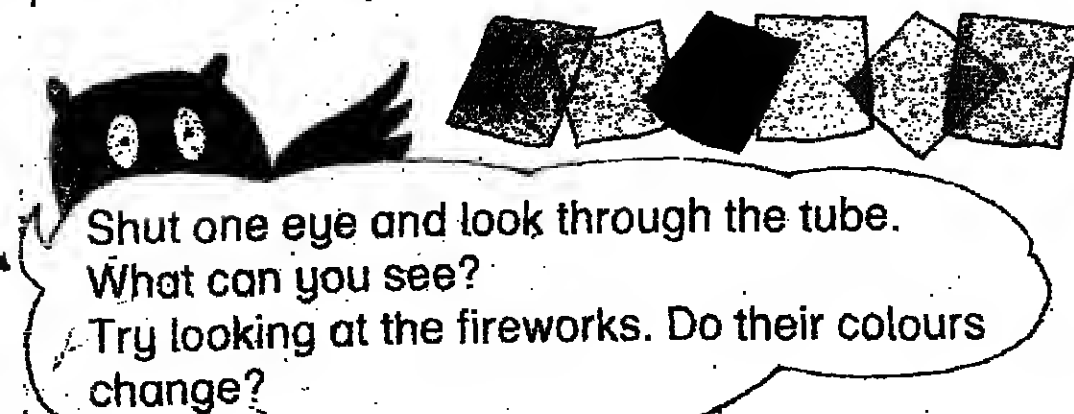


You will need

some coloured sweet papers, a toilet roll middle, some sticky tape and a rubber band.

What to do

Stretch a sweet paper over one end of the tube. Put on the rubber band and stick the paper in place with the tape.



Shut one eye and look through the tube. What can you see? Try looking at the fireworks. Do their colours change?

Dear Junior Readers,

When I was about five years old, we had an electrical cooker in our house. One day after mummy had finished cooking, the burners were beautifully red. I told mummy how pretty I thought they were and she answered: "Do not touch them, they are very hot."

I failed to believe that something so pretty could bring me harm. Mummy seemed to notice my doubts and she took me out of the kitchen and sat me down in front of the television. My mind kept drifting back to my pretty burner.

My baby brother began crying, so mummy went to see what he wanted and I went to the kitchen.

The lights were off and the kitchen dark except for a warm red glow on the cooker... yes my beautiful burner.

It attracted me like a magnet and as I approached it, I reached up and touched it with my index finger.

At first I did not feel anything but eventually the heat came through, I pulled my finger off the hot metal and ran to find mummy.

Children are naturally very curious beings. Maybe this curiosity is what encourages a child to learn.

It is, therefore, very important that you keep an eye on your younger brothers and sisters when your parents are not around. I'm sure you love your siblings very much and want no harm to come to them, right?

Manal

Firsts and lasts

Sir Winston Churchill first used the term 'Iron Curtain' to describe the differences between the Communist countries and the free West in a speech in Fulton, Missouri, in 1946 when he said: "An iron curtain has descended upon Europe."

The National Health Service was first begun on 5th of July, 1948. Before then every patient had to pay for his or her own medicine and treatment.

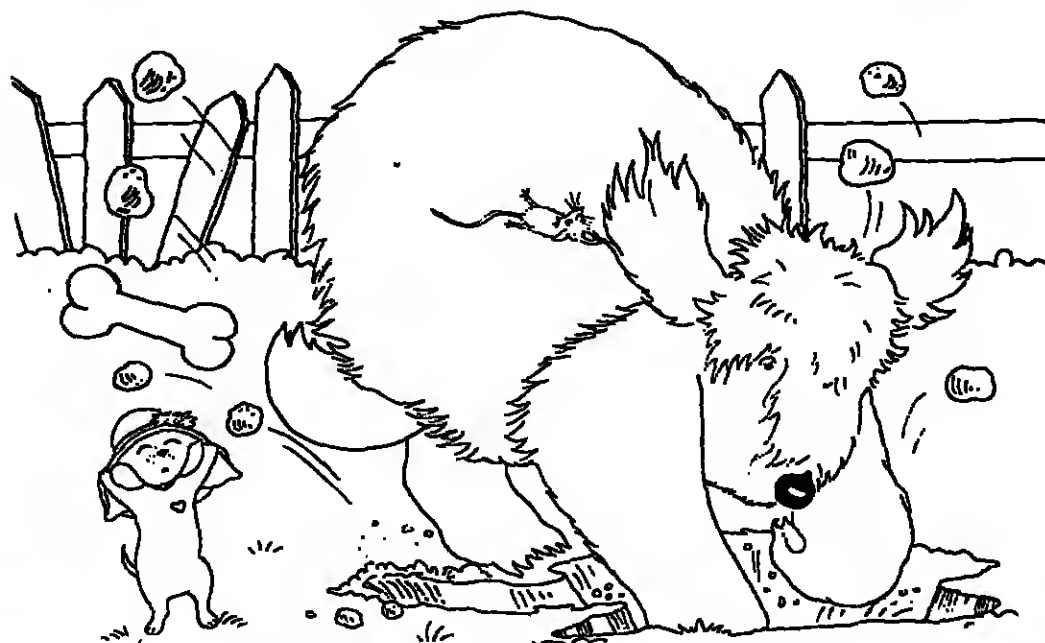
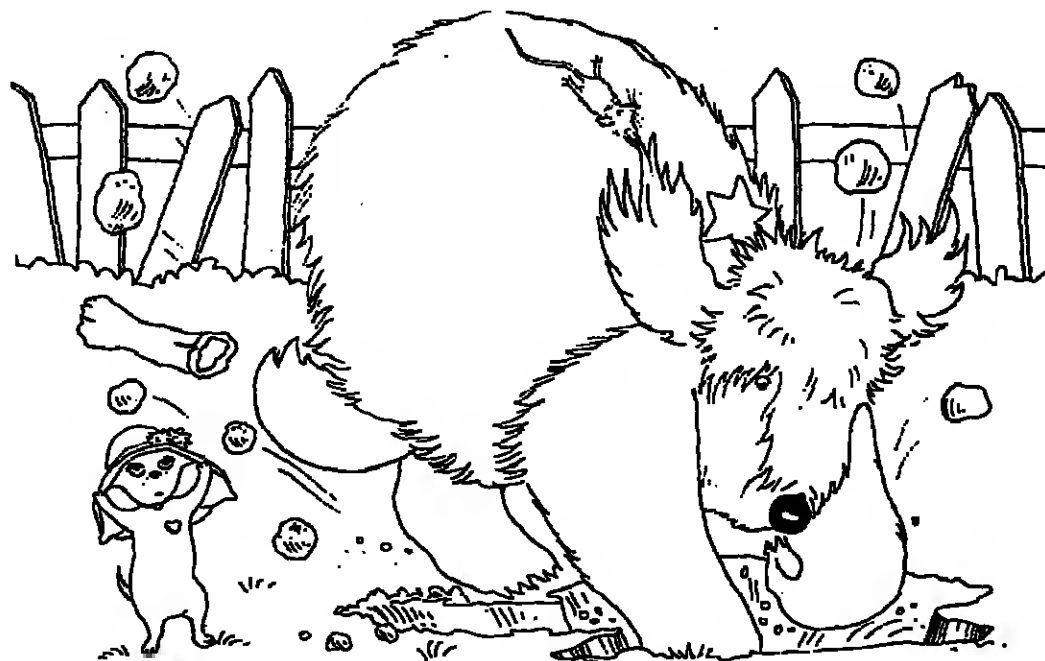
Wordsearch

AMERICAN INDIAN LIFE

ARROW	FARMERS	OUVER	VISIONS
BEADS	HORSEMANSHIP	SIGN LANGUAGE	WAMPUM
BOWS	HUNTER	SKINS	WIGWAM
BRACES	MASKS	SPEAR	WOOD CARVING
BUFFALO	MEDICINE MAN	STORYTELLERS	WOODEN EFFIGIES
CANOE	MURALS	TALES	
CHIEF	PEACE PIPE	TEPEE	
CORN	POWOW	TOBACCO	
DANCE	PRAYER	TRIBE	

S N O I S I V G T S E L A T F
W H B Q U I V E R P R A Y E R
W O O D C A R V I N G H C B S
A R O B O W S P B K T E P E E
M S C D S P E H E N G O N A V
P E K K E C U O S A I N A D A
U M S A A N R R U A B A M S R
M A R E T M E G F J F C E M B
M N P E A M N F E H R E N P F
G S R W R A U S F C S N I K S
J H G A L B R N L I N M C H V
L I F N N S R R T A G A I P C
W P G F W O W W O P R I D C Q
B I O C C A B O T W L U E H N
S T O R Y T E L L E R S M S K

Spot the differences between these two pictures



Amazing facts

There is a natural sauna on a beach in Japan created by steam from an underground volcano, and men and women cover themselves with the sand.

In April 1844 there was an earthquake which killed four people in East Anglia.

A message in a bottle dropped by an American ship in 1941 floated 1,250 miles across the Pacific in 53 days, but the native who found it could not understand any of the eight languages in which it was written.

The oldest international cricket match was played between the USA and Canada in 1844.

Just for laughs!

My uncle was trying to teach my brother to dance. He said, 'You'd be alright except for two things.'

My brother said, 'What two things are they?'

My uncle said, 'Your feet.'

My uncle said, 'Do you know rubber man's gone to prison?'

I said, 'Has he?'

My uncle said, 'Yes. He's doing a long stretch.'

Long



1. At the pet store there are two snakes. One is 119 cm and the other is 72 cm. How much longer is the longer snake?
2. Marty likes to run after school. He jogs 3 km each weekday. On Saturday he jogs 4 km and rests on Sunday. How far does he jog each week? How far does he jog in 4 weeks?
3. Louie rides his bike 2 miles to school and 2 miles home each day. On the weekend he rides 6 miles round trip to the store on Saturday and 4 miles round trip to his friends on Sunday. How far did he ride this week?
4. The largest whale at the park was 25 yards long, the middle-sized one was 19 yards and the smallest is 17 yards. How many yards do all three measure?
5. Wayne had a stack of books to move that was 12 feet high. How many inches high was the stack of books?
6. Gary has a racetrack set. The pieces of track are 8 inches long. He has 192 pieces of track. How long is the track when Gary puts it together?

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name:
Date of birth:
School:
Hobbies:
Telephone:
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

Watch things grow



1. Carefully point or draw a face on a clean, empty eggshell.

2. Fill it with damp soil.

3. Plant cress seeds on top.

4. The hair will soon grow.

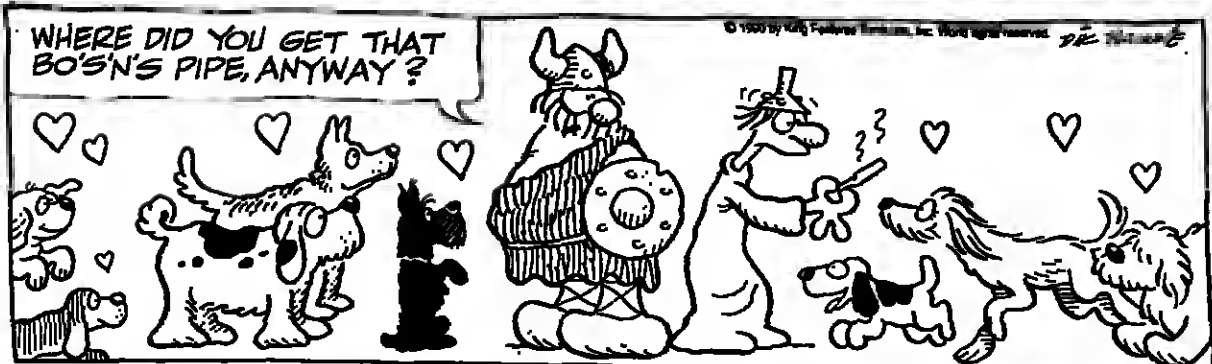
5. Draw a bow on a strip of card this length. Cut it out, bend it round and stick the ends together. Stand your egg on it.

Try growing a carrot top in a saucer of water.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Freck



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUMM



BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brad Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



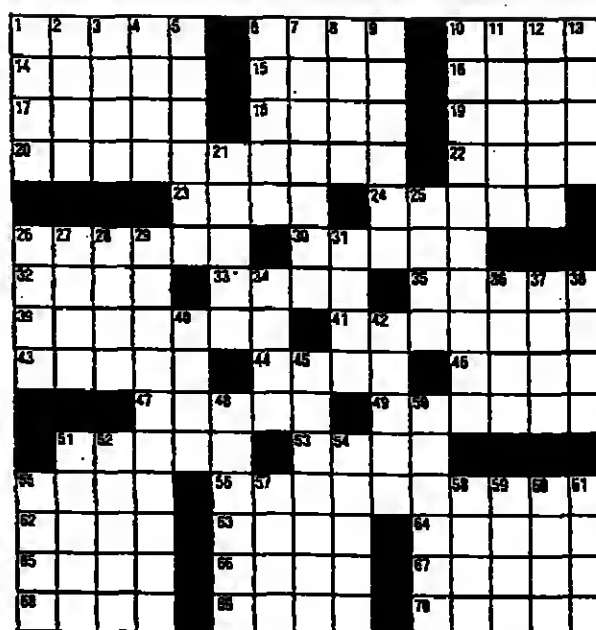
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Atlas or Semson
 - 6 Petty quarrel
 - 10 "— the music"
 - 14 M. Zola
 - 15 — Marquette
 - 16 On the crest
 - 17 Adjust anew
 - 18 Pakistan's neighbor
 - 19 Test choice, sometime
 - 20 Unsparing, reproving one
 - 22 Charter
 - 23 She, in Roma
 - 24 Entertain
 - 25 Describing food for fast days
 - 30 Intense beam
 - 32 "The Sun — Rises"
 - 33 Used a driver, with "off"
 - 35 Make amends
 - 39 Wise biblical king
 - 41 Aimed at
 - 43 One of a suit
 - 44 Doodle
 - 46 Lion's pride
 - 47 Law's companion
 - 49 Frank
 - 51 Donnybrook
 - 53 Adolescent
 - 55 Unit of wood
 - 56 Simple task
 - 62 Native of Qatar
 - 63 Stevens of opera
 - 64 Emulate W. J. Bryan
 - 65 Rocketry acronym
 - 66 Gaiety
 - 67 White sale
- items
- 68 Stratagem
 - 69 Sicilian
 - 70 Actor Richard and family
- DOWN
- 1 Wrangler's concern
 - 2 Rattle bird
 - 3 Fog
 - 4 Actor Guinness
 - 5 Situated below
 - 6 Makes thread
 - 7 Fine cotton
 - 8 Soviet inland sea
 - 9 Dogmas
 - 10 New Year's Eve figure
 - 11 Courtyards
 - 12 Woo
 - 13 Weapon for Athos
 - 21 Be of — (evail oneself)
 - 25 Gather
 - 26 Religious ceremony
 - 27 Askew
 - 28 Mallorca, for one
 - 29 Regular fellow
 - 31 Enos grandfather
 - 34 Duck, in Berlin
 - 36 Mediterranean port
 - 37 Hawaiian avian
 - 38 River of Hesse
 - 40 Simple
 - 42 Used a Singer
 - 45 Craftsman
 - 48 Ordinance
 - 50 Part of a shoe
 - 51 Virtuous
 - 52 Clio's sister
 - 54 "Uncle Vanya" role
 - 55 Complain
 - 57 Sword handle
 - 58 Fussy one
 - 59 Cantrell or Turner
 - 60 Egyptian solar deity
 - 61 Yearnings

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HAISH DOPE GNAW
ETNA EVILIA RICE
ROAN CANAL ASIRA
BIGDEALS BATHER
SPY BERET
EIAPOE APIART GAP
OROME VENTS LEI
DEKE DINGO HURT
ICE PEACE DEBIT
EAR LATER RAISES
FLARE PAR
ELAINE PLAYTIME
TICK SCOOP IDES
ALEE TULIP LEAN
LAIS DENY YALIE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TRIAL BY JURY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A K 6 4 2

♥ 5

♦ A 5 3 2

♣ Q 6 4

WEST

♠ 9 7 3

♥ A J 10 8 6 3

♦ J 9 6

♣ 2

EAST

♠ Q J 10

♥ 9 4 2

♦ Q 10 7

♣ J 10 8 3

SOUTH

♠ 8 5

♥ K Q 7

♦ K 8 4

♣ A K 9 7 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 2 ♥ 2 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

"Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury:

"My clients, Mr. East and Mrs.

West, are each claiming damages in

the sum of \$30 from South. This

arises from a game of rubber bridge

at the defendant's country club.

"After a week jump overall by

my client, North-South arrived at a

contract of three no trump. Mrs.

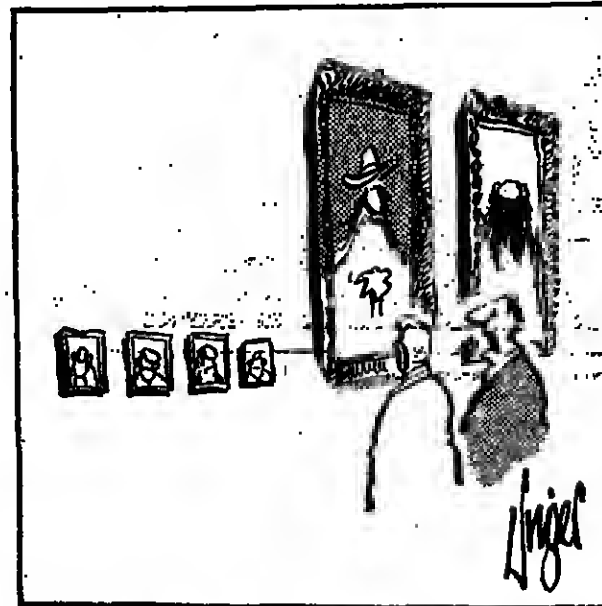
West led the jack of hearts, which

declarer won. After a club to the

queen, declarer led a club from dummy and, when Mr. East produced the eight, South inserted the nine. This unnatural play resulted in an overtrick, whereas the normal play with eight cards of rising with an honor, would have resulted in at least a one-trick set. It is our contention that somehow South must have known the distribution, either by peeking or other means, and that, therefore, my clients should prevail."

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am not sure whether my learned opponent suffers most from lack of brevity or of bridge ability! My client, Mr. South, made a perfectly normal, everyday rubber bridge play."

"He had eight tricks in high cards, and needed to set up one more club for his contract. Also, he could afford to lose a trick to West, who could not attack hearts profitably, but not to East. Therefore, the play of the nine of clubs was nothing more than a safety play which guaranteed the contract regardless of whether it won or lost. Under the circumstances, I request the jury to find my client not guilty. I also request that you congratulate Mr. East on not splitting his club honors—a play that would have made my client's life easy."



"This one lost the family fortune."

YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 19

You will be able to do something you always enjoy doing, but you must not neglect your routine in consequence. Make sure you do not give your partner any cause for complaint. Take good care of your health. Be patient.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will have to be able to avail yourself of a good opportunity only if you work fast. To avoid a stomach upset you must keep away from anything that is in the least bit mouldy or rancid.

Libra
Sept. 22 - Oct. 22

You will be able to do something to further your cultural interests. Your lucky numbers are 7 and 43. Make sure you get all the rest you need without becoming lazy. You must beware of playing with fire. Be responsive.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

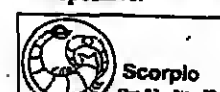
Something you have learnt will now help you to make good progress. You should not trust to luck or chance although you could well be lucky. Make sure you meet your obligations and keep your promise. Be respectful.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

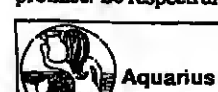
A mistake you have made will be noticed whilst there is still time to remedy it. Make sure you do not get into any serious debt. Avoid making a promise you would find it hard to keep. Be tolerant.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

You will hear from an old friend but you could well have drifted apart since you last met. Make sure you do not let yourself be overtaken by envy or resentment. And a hobby should not become an obsession. Be moderate.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

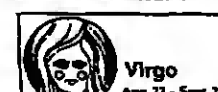
You are rather fable to make up your mind on the spur of the moment. On the whole it would be better to reflect first. Take the opportunity of doing something that will please your partner. Be less obstinate.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You will be tempted to do something that is not quite legal and should resist the temptation. Something you had hoped for will not happen in the way you would have hoped. Make sure you do not spend more than you can afford.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

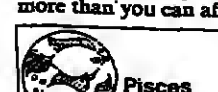
Keep in touch with an old friend but do not make yourself burdensome to him. Everything is again going to take that much longer, so do not let yourself be distracted. And avoid secondary issues. Be candid.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You would be wrong to think that you are the only one around with any brains. Instead listen and take note of what others are saying. Have a good laugh at yourself, too. Be responsive.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

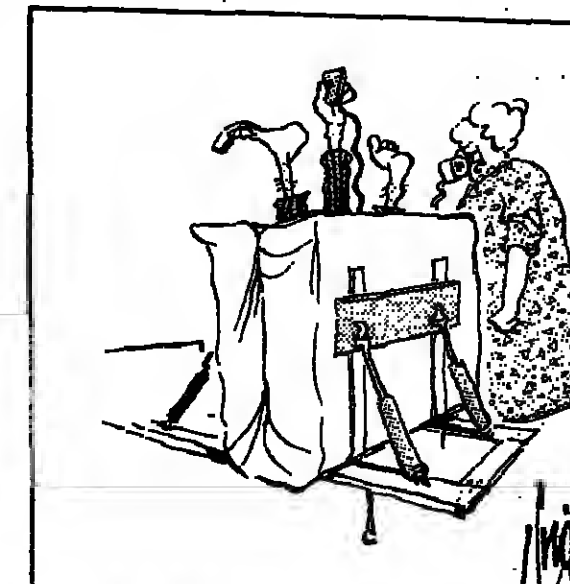
Until you are more skilled it would be better to be a bit more slow and deliberate. You will find a new and better way of doing something you have to do recurrently. Keep an open mind towards change. Be considerate.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

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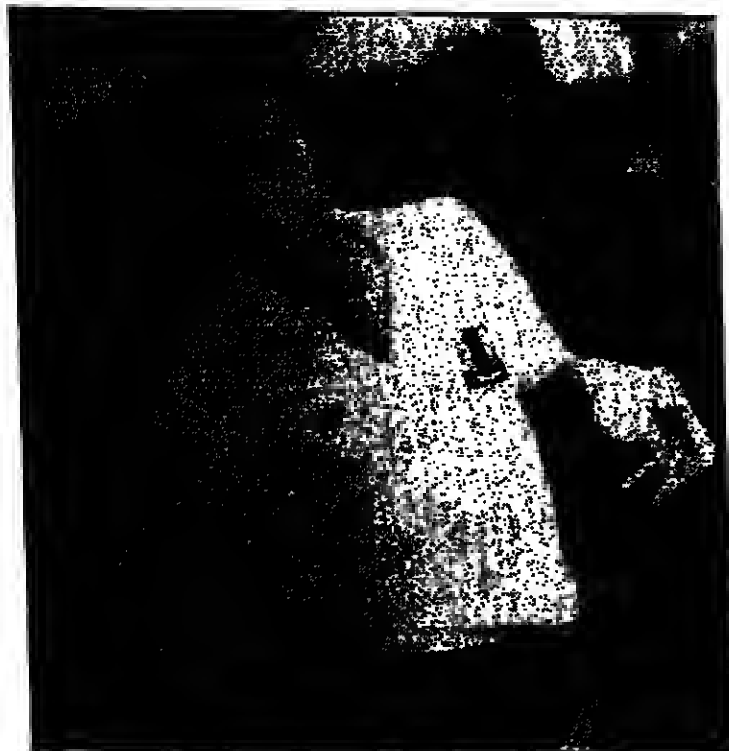
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Agassi clinches San Francisco title

Lendl takes Mayotte to task



Lendl wins ATP crown

MILAN, Italy, Feb 12 (Reuters): Ivan Lendl continued his career domination of Tim Mayotte, thrashing the American 6-3 6-2 to win the ATP Grand Prix indoor tennis championship yesterday.

Lendl, the world's top ranked player, won his 85th career title and is now 16-0 against Mayotte dating back to their first encounter in the 1980 US Open.

The Czechoslovak's powerful ground strokes were simply too much for the serve-and-volley specialist as Lendl dispatched Mayotte in one hour and 20 minutes before a capacity 8,000 in the Palatrussardi arena.

The turning point in the first set came in the fifth game when Lendl sliced a soft backhand passing shot to earn a service break after seven deuce points.

Mayotte's first serve lacked consistency—he served only two aces—and he netted easy backhand approach shots throughout the match.

The two players traded breaks at the start of the second set, but Mayotte, ranked number 14 in

the world, double-faulted in the sixth game to give Lendl a key service break.

Mayotte, who looked impressive on Saturday in ousting fellow American John McEnroe in two sets 6-4 6-4, said Lendl had the measure of his serve.

"Ivan presses you to do more than you feel comfortable doing, and that's his so effective," Mayotte said.

"He returns my serve better than any one else."

Lendl, whose second tournament win of the year following his Australian Open Grand Slam victory earned him \$78,000, said his strategy was to prevent Mayotte from settling into a serve-and-volley game.

"I put a lot of pressure on his serve," he said.

■ And in San Francisco, second seed Andre Agassi wooed in convincing style yesterday dismissing unseeded fellow-American Todd Witsken 6-1 6-3 to claim the title at the \$225,000 San Francisco Championships.

Agassi, the firm favourite in

weakened field, collected a \$32,400 winner's check. Witsken received \$19,000.

Witsken's dreams of a first tournament title faded fast as Agassi, ranked eight in the world, turned on the heat early. The 60th-ranked Witsken never reached game point on his serve and was broken eight times in the match.

Agassi outtrilled Witsken from the baseline and moved around the court with lightning speed, taking a 5-1 lead in the first set serving it out 6-1 when Witsken's return went long.

In the second set, Agassi slightly eased the tempo on his ground strokes and dropped serve three times when Witsken seized his break opportunities.

But Agassi's winners off the ground and the occasional passing shot continued to hurt Witsken. Agassi dropped serve in the eighth game but broke Witsken for the match 6-3 on a backhand error from his opponent. Witsken won just 12 points on his own serve during the match.



The Dodgers move in for their match.

Mariners tame Mets

THE Mariners beat Mets 14-9 in a Kuwait Little League game in perfect weather conditions earlier this week.

It was the third inning for the Mets when they piled up the score. Nine runs were scored. Keith Somerford hit a triple and brought in three of the runs. Keith was unable to make it home.

Mariners' Ziad Sakleh hit a home run for his team with the bases loaded. The other big hitter for the Mariners was Kazumasa Takenuchi with a double and a single earning 3 RBIs.

The Cubs and Tigers started off Friday's games with some real great hitting. Mohammed Lahaleh and Tim Bender hit nice doubles for the Cubs. Tim also hit 2 singles earning 4 RBIs for the day. There were a lot of singles to bring the Cubs score up to 12 runs.

The Tigers were real tough. They just kept scoring inning after inning. Ahmed Al Qallat hit a triple and a double. Ahmed Waqyan hit 2 doubles. Aisha Fathalla hit a double and 2 singles. Rashid Kawmy hit a double, along with Karim Fathalla and Ahmed Galal. With that much hitting the Tigers total mounted to 21 runs scored.

The final score, the Tigers 21, Cubs 12.

The Athletics and Braves ran into some foul weather during Friday's game. But both teams kept at it despite the nasty weather. The Athletics were off to a slow start. Ghanim Al Ghanim hit a single and was able to score when Youssef Al Ghanim hit a nice triple. Ghanim later hit a home run to score again and he brought in 1 additional runner. Hala Khalaf hit a nice double to help the team.

The Braves started off strong and kept it up the whole game. Raja Abduljabbar hit a home run with the bases loaded earning 4 RBIs. Osama Abduljabbar hit a double and Omar Al Omar hit a triple. Ahmed Afani hit a nice double and brought in a run for his team. At the end of 3 innings the Braves won 27 to the Athletics 10.

The Giants came back, after their loss last week to the Cardinals to beat the Orioles 14-3. The Orioles tried to get the momentum going for their team. Jihad Sakleh hit a double. The only other hits were singles by Adam Bengali, Ryan Fox and Amir Gul.

The Giants were hitting everything. Shigeo Mano hit a double and Masahito Nagashima hit doubles. The Giants scored 14 runs to beat the Orioles 14-3.

The Cardinals and Dodgers, despite the terrible weather, played an excellent game. The Dodgers looked like they were going to beat the Cardinals as they scored 4 runs in the first inning. Haider Basravi hit a triple bringing in 1 run. Haider hit a single in the third inning along with James Riley and Fayez Shaif.

The Cardinals were on their toes as the Dodgers gave them some stiff competition. Hisham Navarro hit a home run in the second inning, a triple in the third and made it around the bases in the first on Dodger errors. Austin Kurovski hit a home run and then a double. The Cardinals took the



Above and below: action shots from two games



game away from the Dodgers. Final score Cardinals 12 Dodgers 7.

Remember parents General Meeting, today at 7:30 at the Universal American School in Salwa.

Results
T-ball
Cubs 12 Tigers 21
Braves 27 Athletics 10
Minors
Mets 9 Mariners 14
Majors
Dodgers 7 Cardinals 12
Giants 14 Orioles 3

Home-run hitters
Hisham Navarro Cardinals
Austin Kurovski Cardinals
Ziad Sakleh Mariners
Ghanim Al Ghanim Athletics
Raja Abduljabbar Braves

Jansher thrashes Dittmar

TORONTO, Feb 12 (Reuters): Jansher Khan of Pakistan reaffirmed his status as the world's best squash player by beating Australian Chris Dittmar in straight games in the final of the Toronto Invitational tournament yesterday.

Jansher, who suffered a rare defeat in losing to Dittmar in straight games in the round-robin phase of the tournament, gained his revenge in the final by winning 15-6 15-5 15-12.

The triumph continued the red-hot run of the Pakistani who has overtaken his compatriot Jahangir Khan at the top of the squash world.

In the last four months, Jansher has taken the world title and the number one ranking from Jahangir, whose only hope at salvaging some pride is to win the British Open in April. But on his present form, there appears to be little chance of that.

Jansher followed his semifinal victory over Jahangir on Saturday with an even more convincing win over Dittmar, the world number three.

Dittmar, who had played brilliantly all week, suddenly hit a bad day and from the first rally it was obvious that his accuracy was off, while Jansher was firing on all cylinders hitting superb drop shots, sizzling drives and anticipating Dittmar's every move.

Jansher, whose win ended Jahangir's seven-year hold on the title, earned about \$22,000—the richest prize in squash.

Rudolph sets world best again in Bonn

BONN, Feb 12 (Reuters): East German Nils Rudolph swam a world best time for the 50 metres butterfly on Saturday, touching 0.26 seconds ahead of Australian Andrew Baidon and Soviet Vladimir Tkachenko to take the two-length race easily in 21.76 seconds.

The victory provided a climax to the final day of the three-day gala which also saw world best times in the 25-metre pool from Soviet Dmitri Volkov, Italian Giorgio Lamberti, East German Christiane Sievert and Japan's Daichi Suzuki.

The International Swimming Federation (FINA) does not recognise world records in the short-course pool, only world bests.

Olympic bronze medalist Volkov bettered his own world best for the men's 100 metres breaststroke by 0.12 seconds to 59.30 while triple European champion Lamberti took 0.31 seconds off the men's 200 metres freestyle time he set in the same pool two years ago.

The gala finished with a flourish when Sievert swam 27.54 seconds to equal the women's 50 metres butterfly best and Olympic champion Suzuki improved his own two-year best for the men's 50 metres backstroke by seven hundredths of a second to 25.10.

East rout West in All-Star game

MIAMI, Feb 12 (Reuters): The East, behind a balanced attack and a more dedicated defence, routed the stars from the West 130-113 yesterday in the National Basketball Association's All-Star game.

High scorers for the East, which increased their lead in the All-Star series to 26-14, were high-flying leapers Michael 'Air' Jordan and Charles Barkley, who both posted 17 points.

Earvin 'Magic' Johnson led the West with 22 points and captured the game's Most Valuable Player award for the first time in his illustrious career.

"I never thought I would win MVP, so many great players have been in this game," said Magic, the longtime backcourt leader of the Los Angeles Lakers, who was the first MVP named from a losing team since Julius 'Dr J' Erving in 1977.

"I just came here to give the fans a good show. For me to win (MVP) is a dream come true," Jordao said. "He (Magic) deserved it, but we woo the game and that's what counts."

The East dominated the West in the first quarter leading 40-23 with Jordao and Dominique Wilkins both scoring seven points.

The West rallied in the second quarter and cut the margin to 65-52 at the half.

Larry Bird asserted himself in the third quarter with eight

points to help the East regain a 17-point lead, 100-83.

One last rally brought the West to within nine with 3:22 to go when Lafayette 'Fat' Lever hit a layup off a pass from Magic, making the score 116-107.

But then centre Pat Ewing tipped in a rebound and Barkley hit a book. Bird stole the ball from Clyde Drexler and passed to Isiah Thomas who hit Jordan for a layup that clinched it.

One of the game's highlights came when Barkley, 1.98 m, challenged towering centre Akem 'The Dream' Olujuwon, 2.13, and snuffed his shot leading to a fast-break basket.

Standings
Standing of National Basketball Association teams as of the mid-season All-Star game break yesterday (tabulate under won, lost, winning percentage, games back):

Eastern Conference				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	32	16	.667	—
Philadelphia	30	18	.625	2
Boston	28	18	.609	3
Washington	18	31	.367	14 1/2
New Jersey	12	35	.255	19 1/2
Miami	10	39	.204	22 1/2

Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Detroit	35	14	.714	—
Chicago	28	19	.596	6
Milwaukee	27	22	.551	8
Indiana	25	25	.500	9 1/2
Atlanta	22	24	.479	11 1/2
Cleveland	21	25	.457	12 1/2
Orlando	14	33	.298	20

Western Conference				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	33	14	.702	—
San Antonio	32	14	.696	1/2
Denver	26	20	.565	6 1/2



Jordan (23) tries to score as Olujuwon (right) and James Worthy (left) defend. (Reuters wirephoto).

Pacific Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Dallas	26	22	.542	7 1/2
Houston	22	25	.468	11
Minnesota	10	36	.217	22 1/2
Charlotte	8	37	.178	24
L.A. Lakers	35	11	.761	—

Thomas overcomes Wilson to retain Captain's Cup

Blackouts pair win Ladies Doubles

THE Mouchel Kuwait Darts League held arguably its best ever Captain's and Committee's Cup competition at the Gazelle Club recently, with 27 of the eligible 31 players taking part. The coziest in total required 24 matches to be played, and produced a whopping 91 scores of 100 or more, and featuring 12 140s.

Right from the word go, a high quality of play was seen, especially on the treble twenty. Tooy Rohinson narrowly missed a 180, collecting a 5 with his last dart, and then added a 140, but found opponent Tooy Wake too good on the doubles as he took the opening game 2-0. Ihsan Soboh found the form that seems to have eluded him in the League this season, beating Alan Walker also 2-0, with both players recording 140 scores.

Monday night team mates Keith Chandler and Allan Anderson came face to face in the first round as well. Chandler having the edge in a game with 4 high scores. The worst possible pairing came out of the draw for Nobby Burton and Ian Thomas, as last season's semifinal was repeated as the last first round match. However, the stunning final leg as witnessed 12 months earlier, containing a 180 and a 130 finish, was not to evidence this time, although Thomas did take full advantage of an off night for Burton to win 2-0.

The 24-year-old Rudolph, who swam the fastest 50 metres butterfly of all time on Saturday, touched 0.26 seconds ahead of Australian Andrew Baidon and Soviet Vladimir Tkachenko to take the two-length race easily in 21.76 seconds.

The victory provided a climax to the final day of the three-day gala which also saw world best times in the 25-metre pool from Soviet Dmitri Volkov, Italian Giorgio Lamberti, East German Christiane Sievert and Japan's Daichi Suzuki.

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The gala finished with a flourish when Sievert swam 27.54 seconds to equal the women's 50 metres butterfly best and Olympic champion Suzuki improved his own two-year best for the men's 50 metres backstroke by seven hundredths of a second to 25.10.

The 24-year-old Rudolph, who swam the fastest 50 metres butterfly of all time on Saturday, touched 0.26 seconds ahead of Australian Andrew Baidon and Soviet Vladimir Tkachenko to take the two-length race easily in 21.76 seconds.

The victory provided a climax to the final day of the three-day gala which also saw world best times in the 25-metre pool from Soviet Dmitri Volkov, Italian Giorgio Lamberti, East German Christiane Sievert and Japan's Daichi Suzuki.

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Ian Thomas with the Captain's Cup

The highlight of the second round was a re-match of the classic John Watson / Nick Harvey game from the 1988-89 men's singles. Watson was again the victor, both players matching each other 100 for 100 throughout the game, as Harvey was not allowed a shot at a double. Soboh was again scoring well, with another 140 in 4 high scores, but Mike Simms stayed with it to hit the two important doubles and reach the next round.

Don Sefton was also hitting his scores, reaching the last eight by beating Noel Greaney, and Peter Granowski's 160 went unwarded as he lost to Thomas 2-0.

Round 3 saw Andy Wilson improving on a solid if unspectacular start, as he disposed of Sefton 2-1, and an equally improving Ian Darbyshire just got the better of Simms with the aid of 3 100s. John Watson was now in full flow as he took on John Morris. Morris did well to sneak the second 501 with a 68 finish, having broken a dart towards the end of the leg. But Watson showed no mercy as he took the decider in 19 darts, having hit a total of 6 high scores in all the legs, as Morris was stranded on 238. The last match of the round saw Ian Thomas set up a repeat of the 1989 final with John Watson, by beating Flavio D' Mello with 4 100s and an 18 dart leg.

In a match being cohosted by two newcomers to the event, Darbyshire played the first leg of his semifinal with Andy Wilson like a man possessed. Consecutive scores of 95, 140, and 123 left him double 16 and a 19 dart leg with Wilson left trailing on 299. Then, in the second leg, the pace slowed and both players ended up on double two, which Wilson hit first, to stay in the match. Both players seemed to be suffering from the tension as the crowd were held in abeyance during the decider, but Wilson recovered his composure with an 80 and a 100 to set up an unusual

double 4, double 11, double 3 complete of 36 and thus reach the final.

On the other board, John Watson also got a flying start with 2 100s to win leg one before Thomas neared his double. Both players shared four 100s in a row in the next leg before Thomas hit double 10 just as Watson was poised to throw for the match. The final 501 saw Watson unlikely finding too many treble 1's, as he let Thomas get away and win with a first dart at double 12. Both players had hit 5 100s during the 3 legs.

The final was yet another high scoring spectacular, as both Andy Wilson and Ian Thomas had 140's in their opening halves. Wilson again made the most of his chances, and used a 135 score to leave 26, which he duly completed with his next visit to the board to win the opening game.

In the next leg Thomas proved to be slightly more consistent as 3 100s had him down to a double, and, by the time that Wilson started to get his treble 20s going again, it was too late, and competition went into its final and deciding leg. Here Wilson had an good early 116, Thomas having to settle for steady 60's, but, as he closed the gap, Wilson seized the initiative with an extremely timely 140 to leave himself 38.



Sue Gee (left) and Pat Grey with their trophy.

An unlucky double 3, and 3 close attempts to finish on 8, let Thomas back in, and with his next visit to the oche he snuck his first arrow in double 16 to retain his crown for a third consecutive year.

The large crowd agreed that the contest, which had included 3 140s in its 10 high scores, had been an exciting climax to a superb evening of darts, and that Andy Wilson would have proved a worthy champion if anyone was to end Ian Thomas' recent domination of this event.

Another highly entertaining evening of darts was seen at the Gazelle Club last week when the ladies' main competition of the season was held—the Ladies Doubles. Last year's victors Hilary Milne and Shoa Yacob Yousef did not defend their title this time round, although Hilary Milne was entered with Fe Chandler. A total of 26 pairs played on four boards this year, a slight increase on the 1988-89 run out.

Many of the first round matches were tense affairs, as the players settled into their normal rhythms, the majority going to a third leg to decide the winners. Last year's beaten finalists Diane Sime and Elaine Swaden only narrowly beat opponents Jean Sefton and Gabi Gutting, as did Milne and Chandler in progressing past Joan Fin-

negan and Tracey Keller, although the best first round match was that between Helen Bennett and Eileen Watters and Sarah Wake and Mary Hasemao. This game produced scores of 100 for each team and a 136 for Eileen Watters, but finally Wake and Hasemao just got the winning double first.

By round 2, the initial nervousness was wearing off, and many of the fancied teams began to find form. As confidence increased so did the level of finishing, and 6 of the 8 games were soon decided at 2-0. Sime and Swaden were once more good value for the spectators as they survived another three leg affair, as were the highly fancied Bulls Hitter duo of Margaret Watson and Judith Cole. Having had a bye in the opening round, Pat Grey and Sue Gee eased past Pam Statham and Maggie Harrison, but the best shots seemed to be coming from Diane Morris and Betty Prentice, as they threw a 19 dart leg in their victory over Aodrey MacKenzie and Ruth Gollidge.

However, in the next round they found Watson and Cole scoring consistently between 60 and 85, which, coupled with their good finishing, was too much for them. Grey and Gee were again in control of a 2-0 result over Jenny Thompson and Julie Duboiswitsch, despite the latter's 125 score.

All four players received a well deserved ovation from both spectators and other contestants alike before league treasurer, Mike Simms, presented the winners with the Ladies Doubles Trophy.

In the final, Pat Grey and Sue Gee won the first leg and seemed to be headed for a clean sweep of 2-0 against Margaret Watson and Judith Cole. Having had a bye in the opening round, Pat Grey and Sue Gee eased past Pam Statham and Maggie Harrison, but the best shots seemed to be coming from Diane Morris and Betty Prentice, as they threw a 19 dart leg in their victory over Aodrey MacKenzie and Ruth Gollidge.

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good run was ended by Milne and Chandler, who hit a 119, and a marathon battle with time and Swaden was woo by Wake and Hasemao, making full use of 90 and 125 scores.

In the first semi-final Pat Grey and Sue Gee were again impressive as they once more woo 2-0 against Margaret Watson and Judith Cole, although the game was close, and it took a 20 dart leg to secure the victory. Another very close three leg match, finally saw the end of Sarah Wake and Mary Hasemao and brought Hilary Milne through to another final with partner Fe Chandler.

In the final, Pat Grey and Sue Gee won the first leg and seemed to be headed for a clean sweep of 2-0 against Margaret Watson and Judith Cole. Having had a bye in the opening round, Pat Grey and Sue Gee eased past Pam Statham and Maggie Harrison, but the best shots seemed to be coming from Diane Morris and Betty Prentice, as they threw a 19 dart leg in their victory over Aodrey MacKenzie and Ruth Gollidge.

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IOC chief

NICOSIA, Feb. 12, (Reuters): The head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Juan Antonio Samaranch, will visit Iran on Friday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported yesterday. It said Samaranch would meet Iranian sports officials and visit the Azadi Sports Complex west of Tehran. The head of the Asian Olympic Council, Sheikh Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will accompany him on the one-day visit.

Jalil triumphs

SAO PAULO, Feb. 12, (Reuters): Argentine Martin Jalil won his third consecutive tennis tournament in Brazil when he overcame the loss of the first set to beat home hope Luis Mattar 3-6 6-4 6-3 in the final of the ATP Guarujá Grand Prix yesterday.

Kansas Classic

WICHITA, Kansas, Feb. 12, (Reuters): Unseeded Dinky van Rensburg of South Africa battled back from near defeat to beat top seed Nathalie Tauziat of France 2-6 7-5 6-2 yesterday in the final of the \$150,000 Kansas Women's Tennis Classic.

Portuguese soccer

LISBON, Feb. 12, (Reuters): Porto and Benfica continued their battle for the Portuguese Soccer Championship with home victories yesterday. Champions Benfica won 2-0 against Guimarães with whom they were joint third going into the match, while leaders Porto maintained their two-point advantage with a crushing 4-0 defeat of Penafiel.

Dutch soccer

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 12, (Reuters): Rod JC Kerkrade failed yesterday to catch top-of-the-table PSV Eindhoven when they were convincingly beaten 3-1 at RKC Waalwijk in the Dutch Soccer League.

Juventus president

TURIN, Italy, Feb. 12, (Reuters): Juventus owner Giovanni Agnelli said yesterday that World Cup organizing chief Luca Di Monizzenolo was likely to be the club's next president.

Membership cut

PHOENIX, Feb. 12, (AP): The 400-member governing body of the US Olympic Committee voted yesterday to cut its membership by three quarters to make itself more accountable to athletes and individual sports organizations.

Figure skating

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 12, (UPI): Todd Eldredge, taking advantage of an injured defending champion and first-place finishes in the earlier rounds, held off the challenge of veteran Paul Wylie to win his first US Figure Skating Championship yesterday. Chris Bowman, the 1989 champion, was sidelined with a viral infection and related back spasms when the 18-year-old Eldredge finished a distant second to Wylie in the free skating finale, which carried 50 per cent of the overall scoring.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Feb. 12, (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday.

Vancouver	4	Boston	2
Calgary	4	New York	2
Washington	3	Minnesota	3
Pittsburgh	4	Philadelphia	1
St Louis	4	Buffalo	2
Edmonton	7	Winnipeg	4

Gold medal

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 12, (UPI): East Germany's Jacqueline Börner skated to fourth place finish in the 500 metres yesterday to win a gold medal in the 1990 ladies' world speed skating all-round championship.

Kiwis, Indians head for draw

Wright hits unbeaten ton

NAPIER, New Zealand, Feb. 12, (Reuters): The rain-affected second Test headed for a tame draw as New Zealand, replying to an Indian total of 358 for nine declared, scored 178 for one on the fourth day today. Bad light stopped play with 40 minutes remaining.

New Zealand started with a record opening stand of 149 between Trevor Franklin, who made 50, and John Wright, who remained unbeaten with 113. It was Wright's ninth Test century, his third against India and his second in consecutive innings.

The partnership bettered by 23 runs New Zealand's previous best opening stand against India, by Graham Dowling and Bruce Murray at Christchurch in 1968.

Wright relished a pitch still playing perfectly on the fourth day and batted with great enterprise after reaching his 50 with an on-driven six.

The left-handed Wright had faced 130 balls but he got his next 50 off only another 60. At the end of the day, he had hit 12 fours and a six.

Franklin, who had previously made only one 50 in Test cricket, reached his half century with six fours and a six, but became completely stranded thereafter and did not score another run during the rest of his stay, which was 33 minutes.

The tall opener tried to break free with a pull at Anil Wasoon, but mistimed and was caught at



Wright scores 9th Test century

mid-on. Andrew Jones, who replaced him, also struggled to get into stride and made only four from the 29 balls he faced.

India's Sachin Tendulkar, who resumed his innings at 80, added only another eight runs this morning and missed the chance of becoming, at 16, the youngest century-maker in Test cricket.

Tendulkar square-cut the first ball of the day, from Danny

Morrison, for four and drove the fast bowler for another boundary at the start of his next over.

But striking out with an off-drive at the very next ball, he lofted a catch to short extra cover. The record which Tendulkar might have broken is currently held by Pakistan's Mushtaq Mohammed, who was 17 when he made his maiden Test hundred against India in 1961.

Morrison followed up Tendulkar's dismissal by yorking Wasoon and finished with his second bag of five wickets in the series.

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings (overnight 348 for seven)

W. Raman lbw b Hadlee	0
M. Prabhakar c Smith b Hadlee	95
S. Manjrekar c Smith b Morrison	42
M. Asharuddin b Morrison	33
D. Vengarkar c Smith b Morrison	0
S. Tendulkar c Wright b Morrison	88
Kapil Dev lbw b Hadlee	4
K. More c Franklin b Snedden	73
S. Venkatesh Raju not out	3
A. Wasoon b Morrison	0
N. Hirwani not out	1
Extras (lb-5, nb-14)	19
Total (for nine declared)	358

Fall of wickets: 1-02-22-3-150-4-152-5-210-6-218-7-348-8-358-9-358.

Bowling: R. Hadlee 25-11-73-3 (6nb), D. Morrison 38-8-98-5 (8nb), M. Snedden 42-10-104-1, J. Bracewell 22-2-50-0, K. Rutherford 9-0-28-0.

NEW ZEALAND first innings

T. Franklin c Kapil Dev b Wasoon	50
J. Wright not out	113
A. Jones not out	4
Extras (lb-5, nb-3, nb-2, w-1)	11
Total (for one wicket)	178

Fall of wickets: 1-149-2-178-3-178-4-178-5-178-6-178-7-178-8-178-9-178.

Bowling: R. Hadlee 25-11-73-3 (6nb), D. Morrison 38-8-98-5 (8nb), M. Snedden 42-10-104-1, J. Bracewell 22-2-50-0, K. Rutherford 9-0-28-0.

Windward Islands overcome England

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, Feb. 12, (Reuters): Last pair Thomas Kentish and Ian Allen took the Windward Islands to a one-wicket victory over England's cricketers in a gripping climax on the fourth and final day yesterday.

They came together with the Windwards, pursuing a target of 136, needing a further four runs after spinners Eddie Hemmings and Keith Medlycott had threatened to pull off an unexpected victory for the touring team.

With the scores level, Allen drove left-arm spinner Medlycott through mid-wicket for four to give Windwards their second victory in succession over England, David Gower's team having lost to the island side in St Vincent in 1986.

Yet England will take great heart from the performance of off-spinner Hemmings and Medlycott, who both took four wickets and caused a collapse in which the Windwards crumbled from 101 for three to 12 for nine.

The Windwards lost two wickets on 101 when John Eugene drove Medlycott to cover having been beaten in the flight, and in the following over when Julian Charles drove all round a full length ball from Hemmings and was bowled.

A drinks interval helped to break the concentration of Des Collymore, who drove the first ball afterwards, a full toss, to Graham Gooch at extra cover.

But Mervin Durand and Junior Murray appeared to have taken their side to victory when, 10 runs short, Murray was caught at second slip by Gooch off Medlycott.

Two overs later, at 131, Durand

danced down the wicket to Medlycott but was beaten by the turn and bowled.

The ninth wicket fell in the next over at 132 when Wes Thomas played across the line and was bowled by Hemmings.

Allen joined a composed Kentish to scramble two singles and a leg bye to bring the scores level before Allen struck the decisive blow.

England, having followed on 191 behind, were earlier all out from 326. When England resumed at 217 for five, the Windwards spinners were used for the first 45 minutes without success, prompting the second new ball to be taken.

However, it was a run out which ended a 64-run stand for the sixth wicket when Medlycott took a risky single but was beaten by a fine pick-up and throw to the non-striker's end by Allen, the bowler.

David Capel anchored the middle order with 65, hitting the off-spin of Kentish for six twice in three balls as well as collecting five boundaries.

Scoreboard

WINDWARD ISLANDS first innings

317 (L. John B. D. Joseph 59)
ENGLAND first innings 126 (M. Durand seven for 15)

ENGLAND second innings (overnight 217 for five)

G. Gooch c Telemaque b Collymore	7
W. Larkins lbw b Allen	0
A. Stewart b Kentish	77
A. J. Smith c Telemaque b Kentish	83
R. Smith c Joseph b Kentish	19
D. Capel c Telemaque b Allen	85
K. Medlycott run out	21
J. Russell not out	22

Fall of wickets: 1-122-2-56-3-82-4-101-5-101-6-113-7-126-8-131-9-132.

Bowling: De Freitas 5-1-25-1, Fraser 8-2-33-0, Hemmings 17-5-41-4, Medlycott 12-2-36-4.



Hemmings: four wickets

P. De Freitas c Murray b Thomas

E. Hemmings lbw b Allen

A. Fraser lbw b Thomas

Extras (lb-7 lb-3 w-1 nb-17)

Total

Fall of wickets: 1-32-143-166-4-193-5-208-6-272-7-308-8-318-9-325

Bowling: Allen 20-2-55-3 (w1, nb6), Collymore 19-0-59-1 (nb10), Kentish 33-6-92-3, Thomas 9-2-1-33-0 (nb1), Durand 31-9-55-0, Charles 7-0-32-0.

WINDWARD ISLANDS second innings

I. John B. De Freitas

D. Telemaque c Stewart b Medlycott

D. Joseph b Hemmings

J. Eugene c Smith b Medlycott

J. Charles b Hemmings

M. Durand b Medlycott

D. Collymore c Gooch b Hemmings

J. Murray c Gooch b Medlycott

T. Kentish not out

W. Thomas b Hemmings

I. Allen not out

Extras (lb-4 nb-3)

Total (nine wickets)

Fall of wickets: 1-122-2-56-3-82-4-101-5-101-6-113-7-126-8-131-9-132

Bowling: De Freitas 5-1-25-1, Fraser 8-2-33-0, Hemmings 17-5-41-4, Medlycott 12-2-36-4.

Air race reaches Malaysia

By Jim Gilchrist
On board Dubai Victory

THE longest air race in the world reached its half way point — Langkawi in Malaysia yesterday after a dramatic 1200 mile third stage from Dhaka.

Emergency services were put on alert when a Cessna, the Spirit of Malaysia 2, declared a Mayday after running out of fuel at 9,000 feet just before landing.

As the plane glided towards a forced landing, Captain Supramani Adawa managed to restart one engine, which gave the aircraft just enough power to reach the runway safely.

"It was very tense in the cockpit — we were just relieved to get home safely," he said.

Dubai Victory — the Cessna 310 sponsored by Emirates, the international airline of the UAE completed the stage in just over six and a half hours.

"We have not had much luck," said Dubai Victory's pilot, Sheikh Hamad Ali Jabor Al Thani. "On this leg of the race a malfunction in our navigation system put us off course for sometime. However, we are not complaining, we will get right on with the job and, with the tailwinds in our favour on the way home, we may be able to show better form."

Crews from the twelve surviving entries were given a VIP welcome at Langkawi when Malaysia's Minister for Culture and Tourism, Sabharwal Chik turned out to greet them. However, they were disappointed to learn that a protest, lodged by a competitor in the turbo-prop section, has delayed the official placings until today. Last night a jury made up of race officials was investigating and it will announce its decision at around lunchtime.

Tomorrow the race heads for Singapore — one of the scheduled halts — and the aircraft in the competition will be displayed for five days at the Asean Aerospace show.

Nakayama wins Tokyo marathon

TOKYO, Feb. 12, (Reuters):

Japan's Takeyuki Nakayama ran mostly unopposed to win today's Tokyo international marathon in two hours, 10 minutes and 57 seconds, sailing past world record holder Belayneh Densamo of Ethiopia.

"Thirty-year-old Nakayama flitted with the world record through the first half of the 26.4-mile course, his first race since he

withdrew midway through last April's Boston marathon because of a fractured ankle.

But Nakayama began to slow down today after the 18-mile mark, blowing his dream of breaking Densamo's record.

Scot Olympic silver medalist John Treacy, 32, of Ireland, placed second at 2:11:23, while 24-year-old Densamo, holder of the 2:06:50 world record, came in

third at 2:11:32.

A blistering pace was set from the start with Nakayama, fellow Japanese Yoshitaka Fujiwara and Jason Mosisig of Kenya taking the lead to wind through downtown Tokyo in unseasonably warm weather.

"It was a terrible race," Nakayama was quoted as saying after the race.

Bubka fails to break own indoor record

OSAKA, Japan, Feb. 12, (Reuters): Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union had only himself to blame after choosing the wrong pole in a failed attempt to break his own pole vault world indoor record at the Osaka International Athletics meeting today.

Bubka, who set the indoor mark of 6.03 metres here a year ago, cleared 5.70 and 5.90 metres, each on his first attempt, to fuel hopes he could improve on his record.

But he could not clear 6.05 metres. "I should have used a harder pole when I tried to break my own record," he said.

"I was confident of setting a new world record because my condition was very good today."

Olympic 200 metres champion Joe DeLoach of the United States won the 60 metres for the second straight year with a time of 6.64 seconds. Compatriot Evelyn Ashford retained her women's 60 metres title in a time of 7.15 seconds.

Soviet high jumper Tamara Bykova won her event with a leap of 1.97 metres, while Olympic 400 metres silver medalist Grace Jackson of Jamaica strode through for an easy win in that race in a slow 55.78 seconds.

Ishii clinches Hawaiian title

HONOLULU, Hawaii, Feb. 12, (Reuters): David Ishii needed just an even-par round of 72 to achieve a long-held goal yesterday as he walked away from the Waialae Country Club with a one-stroke victory at the Hawaiian Open golf tournament.

The Hawaiian-born Ishii finished with a nine-under-par total of 279 and earned \$180,000 for his first victory on the PGA Tour.

Paul Azinger eagled the par-five final hole for a 70 to finish alone in second place at 280. Craig Stadler, Jodie Mudd and Clark Dennis tied for third at 281.

Ishii had three birdies and three bogeys for the day, but saved a par on the 17th hole that may have won him the tournament. He bunkered his tee shot on the par-3 hole, blasted out to five and made the putt.

Hubert Green, the third-round leader, was only one stroke behind Ishii playing the 16th hole. But he hit his drive to the left on the dogleg hole and then his second shot hit a tree and bounced out of bounds.

Berbizier axed

AUCH, France, Feb. 12, (Reuters): Captain Pierre Berbizier, under fire after the 26-7 humiliation by England, was axed yesterday as France dropped six players for Saturday's five nations championship match with Scotland at Murrayfield.

Three members of the pack, Jean-Pierre Garret, Dominique Erban and Eric Champ, were left out along with wing Marc Andrieu and centre Denis Charvet in a major shake-up by the French selectors.

Qatar Rally will be tough: Sulayem



Suhail Khalifa in action in an earlier rally.



Rally prizes

Winston donated the prizes for the recently concluded second round of the 4 x 4 Kuwait National Rally Championship. Above: Abdullah Al Barqawi, of KT Club, welcoming the guests and announcing the winners during the prize-giving ceremony while Faddoul Bakhazi of Winston and Shaker Mubarak of KT Club look on.

DOHA: Reigning Middle East champion Mohammed bin Sulayem warned yesterday that the NBK Qatar Rally, which gets the 1990 Fisa regional series under way at the weekend, will be one of the toughest ever staged in the country.

The route is certainly one of the trickiest I can remember," said the Winston Toyota star, who again teams up with Irish navigator Roman Morgan to launch his bid for a fourth successive Middle East title.

"Although it is similar to last year, the organisers have included one or two new stages which could prove particularly difficult. The result is a very fast route with unpredictable terrain."

"It will be important to stick to the route and keep the car in a straight line to avoid the loose rocks which lie alongside the desert trails."

Added the UAE driver: "The Qatar Rally has always been one of the most rugged in the region and a lot of cars have had their tyres shredded along the way. But there are no easy rallies in this championship, and I have confidence in my car. I see no reason why we shouldn't get off to a winning start."

With 16 international victories to his credit, Sulayem will start as favourite to win the 687-km event to his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4.

He knows, however, that he faces stiff opposition from a pack of determined Qatari challengers headed by Abbas Al Mosawi in a Lancia, and experienced men like Oman's Tony Georgiou and UAE compatriot Suhail Khalifa.

"We are delighted with the number and quality of entries," said Clerk of the Course David Evans. "There should be a tremendous battle between Sulayem and Khalifa, although there are many other good drivers capable of winning."

With a total of 38 entries, the rally will have one of the biggest starting line-ups in its history. It gets under way from the Doha Corniche at 12 noon on Thursday, with all the stages being run in daylight for safety reasons. The first cars are expected to reach the finish at Doha's Ramada Hotel around 5.30 pm on Friday at the end of a route containing 26 special stages totalling 370-km in length.

Ralliart Middle East, the Dubai based Mitsubishi Motor Sports Organisation run by Al Habtoor Motors, announced yesterday their plans for the 1990 Motor Sports Season.

Team manager, Mike Otty, confirmed the signing of Suhail Khalifa to drive the Galant VR4 Group A car in the Middle East Championship and Mohammed Omar to drive the Galant VR4 Group N in the same series.

These two drivers were recently placed 1st and 3rd in the first leg of the Desert Challenge Series. They are joining in the Ralliart Middle East team Abbas Al Mosawi, who is the Desert Challenge champion for 1988 and 1989, and Mamdouh Khayat, the leading driver in Saudi Arabia.

Suhail Khalifa is an outstanding driver of 4WD cars and has won the Masafi 4WD Rally for the last two years and will certainly start as the favourite for the forthcoming Masafi Rally at the beginning of March.

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- Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

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Milan storm to top

ROME, Feb 12, (Reuters): European champions AC Milan have stormed to the top of the Italian First Division for the first time in almost two years by ousting Diego Maradona's Napoli with a 3-0 hammering.

The team, dubbed 'Atomic Milan,' by fans after their dazzling performance at home yesterday, took over the League leadership for the first time since May 1988 on goal difference.

Milan's Dutch international Marco Van Basten, who scored the third goal with a graceful diving header, was as cool as ever after the match.

"Napoli played well, but Milan played better — I missed a few opportunities."

"Now we've got to keep our feet on the ground. We've still got another 10 Sundays to go before the end of the championship. Anything can happen," said Van Basten, European Footballer of the year twice in succession.

The warmest praise for Milan, however, came from Napoli captain Maradona, who gave a lacklustre performance.

"They're a beautiful team, they play really exceptional soccer, they deserved to win. They never let us out of our half," said the Argentine World Cup captain.

Not that Maradona was ready to give in as Milan and Napoli, both four points clear of the rest of the pack with 36 points, prepare to fight the championship out between themselves.

"There's no need to be scared. We've got the same number of points. The battle's thrown open, nobody's excluded," said Maradona.

Napoli have an early opportunity for revenge when the sides meet for the third time in two weeks in the second leg semifinal of the Italian Cup on Wednesday after a draw goal-less draw in the first leg.

Champion Internazionale and Sampdoria, joint third, both drew yesterday.

Defending Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven returned to form with a 6-0 thrashing of lowly NEC Nijmegen after losing heavily last week.

PSV, racked with rivalry among their abundant stable of top players, appeared to have put team wranglings behind them with the return of some of the more disenchanted players including Danish defender Ivan Nielsen.

Victory left them two points clear at the top of the table with a game in hand over nearest challengers Vitesse and Roda JC.

Ajax, who slipped to fifth after losing 1-0 to mid-table MVV Maas-tricht, are four points behind PSV but with a game in hand and an opportunity to close the gap when the two sides meet next week.

To France, Jean-Pierre Papin struck twice in the first 15 minutes for last year's double winners Marseille to lead his team to a 4-1 win over Racing Paris and take his personal tally in the League to 19, seven more than anyone else.

Bordeaux retained their three-point lead over Marseille with an uncomfortable 2-1 home win over Caen thanks to two goals from Dutch striker Piet Den Boer.

Audette Madrid moved into second place in the Spanish League behind arch-rivals Real Madrid after Barcelona dropped a point at home yesterday.

Atletico, whose 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao was described by coach Javier Clemente as boring, still trail Real by six points after their more illustrious neighbours beat Cadiz 3-0 on Saturday.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff was in a typically positive mood despite their 1-1 draw at home to Real Madrid which he says could still count in the title race.

'Our champion is the winner of this fight'

Douglas is world champion: IBF

NEW YORK, Feb 11, (Agencies): The International Boxing Federation (IBF) said yesterday that James 'Buster' Douglas is the new world heavyweight champion despite controversy over an alleged "long count" he received before his shocking knockout of Mike Tyson in Tokyo.

Tyson knocked down Douglas in the eighth round of their scheduled 12-round fight in Tokyo yesterday and came back to knock out Tyson in the 10th round.

But after the fight, Tyson's corner said Douglas had been given a long count of 12 or 13 seconds after his knockdown.

The sport's main ruling bodies — the World Boxing Association and the World Boxing Council — said they were holding up acceptance of the original decision until they hold meetings next week.

IBF President Bob Lee said he was concerned about "credibility of boxing."

"Our champion is the winner of this fight," he said. "That's Buster Douglas. I think Buster Douglas showed the world he was the winner. It wasn't a controversial knockout. He (Tyson) was counted out. There was some question about the referee's action in the eighth round, but I don't think you can punish a fighter for that. The referee is the sole arbiter inside the ring. If the referee tells him five or eight, that's the count you have to go by."

"There is a mechanism in our rules for the hearing of a protest. If Mike Tyson wants to be heard, he will be heard. But you have to be concerned with the credibility of boxing."

Promoter Bob Arum called the heads of the WBA and WBC "totally immoral" for vacating the heavyweight titles.

"Last night should've been one of the greatest nights in the history of boxing," said Arum, who for years has railed against the two governing bodies.

"Everybody felt good about the sport. Then a few hours later, these two Noriegas — and that's what they are, (WBC president Jose) Sulaiman and (WBA chief Gilberto) Mendoza — do something totally immoral. Their organizations have been run that way for years."

"To even suggest to take away the title from the kid, who had prepared for the fight and beat the invincible champion, is an absurdity."

Tyson and Douglas flew home today after a bout that turned boxing upside down and left the world heavyweight championship to be decided in committee meetings.

Airport sources said the rivals took off within minutes of each other. Tyson to New York and Douglas to Chicago.

A translator gave Japanese reporters at the airport a message from Tyson, cloistered in the VIP lounge: "I don't want to talk about the fight. I love Japanese because they are honest, and would love to come back."

Long counts — like the one that may have cost Douglas the heavyweight championship of the world — have made for some of boxing's greatest controversies.

The apparent second or two of extra time in the Douglas knockdown promises to provoke years of argument, but there is just one long count fight to tradition-minded boxing fans.

That was the bout on September 22, 1977, when Jack Dempsey had Gene Tunney on the canvas for some nine to 14 seconds longer than the 10 seconds required for a knockout, but still did not take away his title.

Many consider it the fight of the century.

It was seen by more than 100,000 people at Chicago's Soldier Field and broadcast to an estimated 50 million people around the world. It was a classic match-up of a savage brawler, Dempsey, against a scientific strategist, Tunney. Tunney earned \$990,000 — back when that was real money.



Tyson being led away from the ring after his defeat. (Reuters wirephoto)

opponent and knock him back down as soon as he tried to stand.

But Tunney's camp, knowing this was a key part of Dempsey's savage style, insisted on enforcement of the "neutral corner" rule. Tunney, given the extra time, recovered to win the bout.

Dempsey never had another serious fight but remained one of the world's most popular athletes for the rest of his 87 years.

Another popular, long-lived fighter, Archie Moore, lost his warm easy smile when reminded of his own long-count loss.

It occurred in 1955, when he thought he had finished off Rocky Marciano in the second round to take away the world heavyweight championship.

In an interview last month with Reuters, the 76-year-old Moore said the referee in that fight "should have in hell forever" for delaying starting his count several times.

"First of all, the moment Rocky was down I was supposed to go to the corner and he was supposed to start the count, but he didn't start the count until he saw me in the corner. Then he began to count."

"Then he said I was in the wrong corner. Then he pushed me over to the other corner and then started the count all over again," Moore said.

Marciano knocked him out in the ninth round.

Other fighters have made accusations of long counts — whether it be referees taking too long to count their opponents out or promoters taking too long to count their money.

US boxing publisher Bert Sugar exploded in rage yesterday when he learned the sport's two main governing bodies had cast doubt on Douglas's claim to a world championship.

"It's just infuriating," said Sugar, editor and publisher of

Boxing Illustrated. "This was a win seen by millions, heard by many more millions, that they're trying to take away," he told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"This is the WBC continuing to protect its favourite fighters, and (promoter) Don King in this case," he said.

"It's (WBC president) Jose Sulaiman who has decided he's going to protect Tyson against all outside influences — including fighters in the ring," said Sugar, who formerly was the publisher of the boxing "Bible," ring magazine.

"The WBA is in lockstep with the WBC. There's no reason for them (the WBA) to exist," he said.

Douglas's hometown went to bed proud of his world heavyweight crown and planning a parade. But then what a mourning after.

After Douglas shocked Tyson, banner headlines in Sunday's Columbus dispatch proclaimed, "Buster's the champ."

The newspaper quoted Mayor Dana Rinehard as saying: "Columbus is going to have a great big parade right through the streets of downtown when the heavyweight champion of the world comes home."

But then word began spreading yesterday morning that boxing's two main governing organisations had decided not to accept the results of the fight yet.

The mayor could not immediately be reached for comment on any possible revision of his plans.

Eric Valentin, manager of the city's biggest sport bar said he had been jubilant when Douglas had won — but was strangely unsurprised to hear of Douglas's misfortune.

"They're not going to honour Douglas as the champion — I just had a feeling," he said.

Tasmania move into 2nd place

SYDNEY, Feb 12, (Reuters): Tasmania took Western Australia's last nine wickets for just 46 runs to achieve a remarkable victory in Launceston today which moved them into second place in the Sheffield Shield table behind Queensland.

Set 202 to win, Western Australia were going comfortably at 70 for one before pace bowlers Dave Gilbert and Greg Campbell ripped through the batting to dismiss the reigning champions for 116.

Gilbert finished with four for 30 and Campbell four for 21.

In Melbourne, New South Wales' prospects of reaching the Shield final hit a setback when Victoria's makeshift opener Warren Ayres scored an unbeaten 134 to earn the home side a draw.

Needling to bowl Victoria out to claim outright points after enforcing the follow-on, New South Wales' attack was defied by Ayres for more than seven hours as Victoria amassed 297 for three on a friendly Melbourne Cricket Ground wicket.

The 24-year-old Ayres, who had never opened for his state in eight matches over a stop-start three-year career, faced 361 deliveries.

Barclay bridge

RESULTS of the Barclay Cigarettes Bridge Tournament (1st week) held at the Regency on Sunday:

- N/S
1. Stanley Drexler & Carsten Buns
Sharing 2nd: Nabil Akel & Narendra Shah and Ali Boukhris & Chibli Jadaa
E/W
1. Salman Ali & George Masoud
2. Randa & Maurice Finan
3. Mamdouh Sabri & Magdi Azzazi

Pakistan rout Spain

Soviets hold Indians

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 12, (Reuters): Hosts Pakistan, bidding to win the title for the fourth time, enjoyed a dull opening day in the seventh World Cup hockey tournament by defeating Spain 6-3 today.

It was the highest scoring match between the two sides. Pakistan took control by scoring four goals in a 26-minute spell in the first of their Group B match at the National Stadium.

England, finalists at the last World Cup, beat long-standing rivals Ireland 2-0 in Group B.

Earlier the Netherlands, the Olympic bronze medalists, defeated France 2-1 while once formidable India were held to a 1-1 draw by the Soviet Union in Group A.

Three of Pakistan's goals were scored by their brilliant inside-left Shahbaz Ahmad who, with left-winger Waseem Feroze, cut the Spanish defence to pieces in the first half.

Pakistan led 4-1 at the interval, having taken the lead with a penalty stroke conversion by Qamar Ibrahim after seven minutes. Spain's first half goal was forced in by Jose Cascas after his team had conceded three goals.

Pakistan went 5-1 ahead early in the second half with a penalty corner goal by captain Qazi Mohib, but Spain came back with two goals in two minutes on beautifully struck shots by Ignacio Escude.

But Pakistan had the last word with a classic goal by inside-right Tahir Zaman.

England, with seven of Britain's Olympic gold medal-winning side, gained a workmanlike win over Ireland, scoring both goals from second half penalty corners.

Sean Kerly, one of the leading scorers at the Seoul Olympics, flicked in the first after 41 minutes and Marryn Grimley, another gold medalist, the other nine minutes later.

In Group A, the Netherlands needed two penalty conversions by captain Marc Delissen to defeat France.

Rain throughout the day kept the crowds down. Only 60 watched the opening match involving the Netherlands but the crowd swelled to 15,000 for Pakistan's first match in the 55,000 capacity stadium.

Some Pakistani spectators pulled down the Indian flag from the post sporting the flags of all the competing nations and tore it apart during the Pakistan-Spain match, witnesses said.

The area was cordoned off by police and a new flag was hoisted after the final match of the day.

Earlier, Pakistani fans shouted slogans against India and in support of a Muslim independence campaign in its Kashmir state.

Pakistani authorities have arranged special security for the Indian players in view of high tension between the two nations over the disputed state.

North beat South in rugby friendly

DUE to visa problems the Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads scheduled match against Muscat had to be postponed. Instead a domestic game between teams representing the North and South of Kuwait was played. The sides were captained by Steve Hill and Noel Kelly and these two were heavily involved in what turned out to be one of the best games seen at Ahmad in recent seasons.

The North began in an extremely determined manner. After only three minutes Adams turned a poor pass from the scrum into points with a neatly chipped dropgoal. Four minutes later Steve Hill increased the North's lead when after charging down a Noel Kelly kick he picked himself up and beat the retreating defenders to the touchdown. The South seemed unable to respond, and fell further behind when quick possession from a tapped penalty was spun wide and Richard Ellis drove over.

Graham Adams converted both of these scores and they continued their adventurous running. A series of drives from the battering ram like frame of Sean Kelly softened the South's defence and from one of these runs the ball was slipped to Steve Hill who went over for his second try.

The teams had seemed very even on paper but the first twenty minutes left the South dazzled and bewildered. To their credit they began to use their superior pack size



The Nomads with Fethi Abdannadher, general manager of Holiday Inn, who along with KMMC are sponsoring the team.

and radically changed the direction of the game. A driving maul close to the North's line saw Andy Hopkins drive over for a try. With two minutes left of the half Noel Kelly popped over a penalty to at least give the South hope for the second half.

The next forty minutes saw the South gain a huge territorial advantage through the driving play of their pack and the accurate kicking of Noel Kelly. Stroog mauling from Hopkins and Phil Quinn kept up a good supply of ball to scrum half Steve Hutchinson Jr. This was probably young Hutchinson's best game in his new position and his service to Kelly was first rate. It was a pity therefore that the ball stopped

too often here and was not allowed out along the line. Kelly is a strong and elusive runner but his love of physical confrontation reduces his available options.

His place kicking however was spot on and two quick penalties further reduced the North's lead. With twenty minutes to go young Hutch broke clear round the blind side and dived over to bring the scores to within 5 points at 21-17.

The last quarter of the match saw some stirring rugby. The North tried back row attacks but were thwarted by the defence of Tony Sole. The South kicked themselves into good attacking positions but failed to retain possession at vital

times. With only 4 minutes to go Steve Hill broke open and the ball passed quickly on through Shipley and Adams to find Ellis driving into the line, past the cover defence and over between the posts for the decisive score. Adams added the conversion to give a flattering final score of 27-17 to the North.

It was good to see the return of Keith Townsend and the ever youthful Roo Hughes. The game was certainly entertaining, not merely for the subtle line-out play of Winfield and Sean Kelly. The Hill brothers were honours even in the middle of the line-out whilst the South definitely did better in the scrum.

Conference Programme

Tuesday, Feb 13

- 8.00 - 10.00 am — Clinical Pharmacy session
10.00 - 10.15 am — Interval
10.15 am - 12.15 pm — Pharmaceutical Chemistry session
3.30 - 5.30 pm — Pharmaceutical Services session
5.30 - 5.45 pm — Interval

Wednesday, Feb 14

- 8.00 - 10.00 am — Clinical Pharmacology session
10.00 - 10.15 am — Interval
10.15 am - 12.15 pm — Pharmaceutical Technology session
3.30 - 5.00 pm — Medicinal Plants session
5.00 - 5.15 pm — Interval
5.15 - 6.45 pm — Update lectures on Medical Sciences symposium

9.00 pm — A farewell dinner in honour of participants of Grand Ballroom-Kuwait International Hotel.

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P.O. Box 24301 Safat - 13104 Kuwait
Tel. 4742288/4742287
Fax: 4742513 - Telex: 31062 SURGICO

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Editor-in-Chief
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